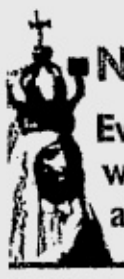

News / A6
Everything you wanted to know about Mary

Sunday Biz / B1
Heart of RP's largest accounting firm beats on

Lifestyle / C1
Guide to presents perfect for spenders big and small

World / A10
Nobel Peace prize winner: Heal the earth, heal ourselves

Entertainment / A2-1
Keep Osang out of 'The Buzz,' GMA 7 tells ABS-CBN

JOB Market
With 3,600 job vacancies

PAF spokesman talks straight– a military rarity

By Fe Zamora

HERE'S one military spokesperson who shoots straight. His invitations to the media are laced with wit.

Knowing how much media people would like to see firsthand the extent of the destruction in the countryside caused by the recent

PAF SPOKESMAN/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Men willing to give an arm for phallic reconstruction

NEW YORK—It's true: Men would give their left arm for a bigger weiner.

Men with abnormally small penises gave a portion of their left arm so that surgeons could create a more normal-sized organ. The

MEN WILLING/ A4

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Sunday, December 12, 2004 ★★★ 148 pages / 21 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 4 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Tunnel repairs rushed

GMA says damage grim reminder that no one is an island

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Tina G. Santos

GOVERNMENT teams, including tribesmen using their bare hands, are working round the clock to repair a major distribution tunnel damaged by typhoons and avert a water shortage in Metro Manila next summer, officials said yesterday.

"The damage to the Umiray tunnel is unprecedented and shows how the plunder of the environment elsewhere in a distant place can wreak havoc on the water supply of Metro Manila," President Macapagal-Arroyo said after an emergency meeting at Malacañang.

"This is a grim warning as well as a wake-up call for collective action. No one is isolated and cannot stand apart from this challenge," she said.

The 13-km tunnel, made of lime and concrete, delivers water from the Umiray River in General Nakar, Quezon, and accounts for up to 30 percent of the reserves of Angat Dam, which supplies the potable water needs of 97 percent of Metro Manila.

The tunnel collapsed after it was battered by an avalanche of logs and mud triggered by the series of storms and typhoons that recently struck Quezon and other provinces, leaving about 1,800 people dead or missing.

"The government is working round the clock to repair the damage," Ms Arroyo said in a statement after presiding over a

TUNNEL/ A4

A SPOT LIKE CAMELOT: All aglow with the frills and froth of the holiday season, Davao City Hall is transformed into a magical realm where dreaming and reality converge.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BETOY JOHNSON

MARIA JULIA GIRAO-DANCEL

1st Portuguese to get award in RP finds home, serenity

By TJ Burgonio

JUST by being herself, Portuguese Maria Julia Girão, now 91, served as her country's "ambassador of goodwill" between 1975-1997 when diplomatic ties between Manila and Lisbon were non-existent.

Her work has not gone unnoticed by the Portuguese government.

After 40 years, Girão was conferred high honors—the rank of official of The Prestigious Order of Infante D. Henrique—by Portuguese Ambassador João Caetano da Silva at his official residence in Makati City on Dec. 6.

She is the first Portuguese in the Philippines to receive a "very important order" based on the "merits of her work," according to Da Silva.

"We didn't have an ambassador here for 20 years. This made the role of Doña Maria Julia specially important because she promoted Portuguese culture," the ambassador said.

She was 50 and a widow when she first moved to Manila with her Filipino husband Antonio Dancel in February 1964.

At the beginning, she was content with being a housewife, looking after three of her husband's young children (the two older ones stayed with their grandparents). Soon, however, foreigners and locals came knocking on her door asking if she could teach them Portuguese.

Although she had degrees in French and English, Girão warned them that she didn't study to become a teacher, much less a language teacher. But she went ahead and gave them lessons anyway.

From 1964 onward, Girão taught Portuguese to anyone who sought her out, including American and European diplomats who requested informal tutorials before being posted to Portugal, Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

"They were not looking for a degree, but a friendly way to learn the language," Girão said of her students.

She also got involved in civic organizations, which sent poor boys to college; helped set up and run a library of the Alliance Française de Manille; translated portions of a movie about the Philippines into Portuguese, and never

1ST PORTUGUESE/ A4

No more signs of life in Real, say rescuers

REAL, Quezon—Hopes of pulling more survivors from a building that collapsed 12 days ago at the height of Tropical Depression "Winnie" dwindled yesterday as private rescuers ended their work, saying they had explored all possible areas.

Rain fell as some 40 miners from private firms prepared to leave the site of the Repador building in Barangay Tignoan, but soldiers said they would continue excavating bodies from the rubble as long as it was still safe to do so.

"In our assessment, the basement where we expected there may still be survivors, we think there's no more hope. They're all dead," said Joel Son, an engineer who headed the group sent by Philex Mining Corp.

Son said the miners had dug holes in the basement area but had failed to detect any signs of life. About 120 people were believed to have been using the 2-story building as a shelter when it was hit by a landslide.

"There are no more signs of life," said Col. Pablo Amisola, regional military spokesperson. "They (rescuers and soldiers) have already reached the ground level and so far only four have been recovered alive."

He was referring to Maria Tamares, her 3-year-old granddaughter and two 14-year-old boys whom miners pulled from under the rubble on Thursday. Their discovery had given hope to waiting relatives and rescuers, but later excavation turned up only corpses.

Amisola said soldiers continued digging for bodies and recovered the remains of six people yesterday.

Col. Jaime Buenaflor, chief of the 202nd Infantry Brigade, said rescuers had removed about 80

NO MORE/ A8

Pacquiao devastates Thai in 4 rounds

By Recah Trinidad

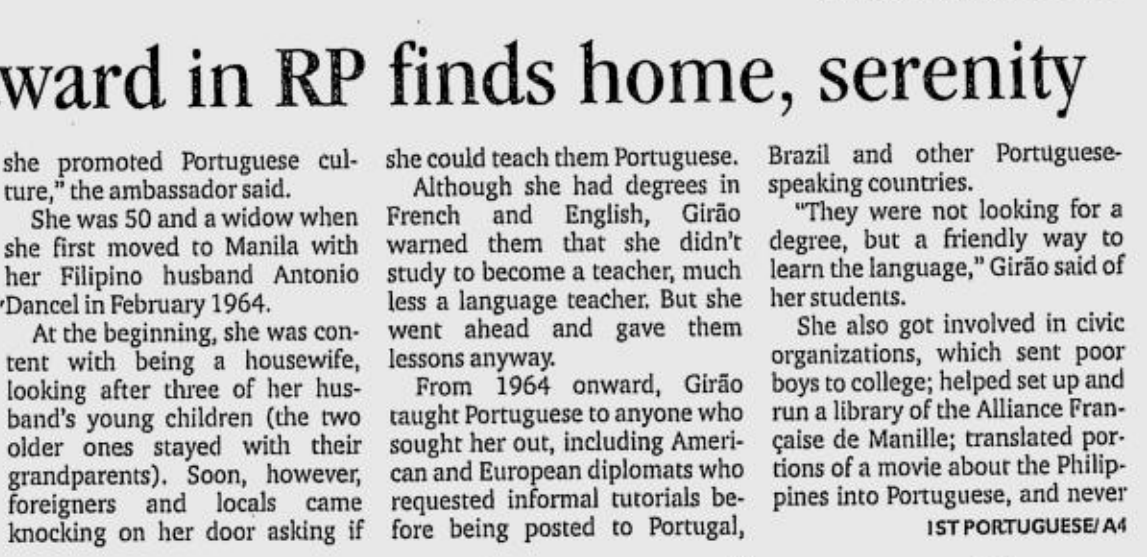
MANNY Pacquiao crushed his ambitious Thai foe with thundering combinations to score a merciless fourth-round knockout that touched off a wild celebration at The Fort in Taguig City last night.

A crowd estimated at 25,000 roared in approval and awe as Fahsan 3K Battery landed hard on his back after taking an ax-like left uppercut to the jaw. It was the Thai's first knockout defeat in 53 fights.

The stoppage was so complete that referee Ferdinand Estrella did not bother to count as Fahsan lay senseless on the canvas while fireworks lit the overcast skies around the fight venue.

Keeping his vow to fight toe-to-toe, Fahsan sneaked in a few stiff right punches, but Pacquiao was far too superior for the visitor, who stayed on the floor for nearly two minutes before being helped back to his corner.

PACQUIAO/ A8



MANNY Pacquiao moves in for the kill as a dazed Fahsan 3K Battery struggles to stay on his feet in the fourth round. The Filipino champ dominated the fight as expected.
EDWIN BACASMAS

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over Bicol region and Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CHONA CAMACHO, RDI FEEDBACH; HI/LO/S SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senators vow to block Masinloc plant sale

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MINORITY in the Senate yesterday vowed to block the sale of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales amid allegations that the winning bidder was undercapitalized and had no track record in power generation.

Taking a cue from administration, Sen. Joker Arroyo who was the first to raise a howl over the supposedly lopsided deal, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Q. Pimentel Jr. sought the revocation of the sale to YNN Pacific Consortium Inc. by PSALM.

PSALM, or the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., handles the privatization of the power generation companies or assets of the National Power Corp.

Arroyo had said that Malacañang had not seemed to have learned a lesson from the past.

"If President Ramos had his IPPs (independent power producers), President Arroyo has her YNN," he said.

Arroyo said it was so unbelievable that a company like YNN with a paid-up capital of less than P1 million "can buy a P30-billion company."

Seeing the wisdom of Arroyo's objection to the deal, Pimentel urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to withhold its final approval of the sale, saying there was a cogent reason to believe that the winning bidder, YNN Pacific Consortium, was "undercapitalized and has no track record in power generation."

Pimentel said the Australian-Filipino consortium had a paid-up capital of only P625,000 and a maximum capitalization of P10 million.

This means, he said, that the company's capitalization falls short of the Masinloc power plant's purchase price of $561,740,000.88 by as much as $561,561,428.60.

Pimentel also cited allegations that neither YNN nor its investors had adequate experience in the operation of power plants.

"If these allegations are true, then it would appear that Malacañang and the DOE were only deceiving the people when they boastfully announced that the privatization of the Masinloc power plant was successful and a landmark accomplishment," Pimentel said.

He challenged Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and PSALM president Raphael Lotilla to refute accusations that the bidding for the Masinloc facility had been rigged to favor YNN.

"If these allegations against the winning bidder of the Masinloc plant are proven to be correct, then it will be logical to revoke the bidding and rebid the sale," he said.

According to Pimentel, YNN, supposedly a subsidiary of YNN Holdings Corp. owned by businessman Sunny T. Sun, won the bidding by offering to buy the Masinloc plant for $561 million (P30 billion).

YNN outbid First Generation Holdings, an IPP owned by the Lopez group, which bid only $288 million. Two other bidders—Mirant Corp. and Korea Electric Power—withdrew.

The final bidding was held on Dec 3, 2004.

YNN was incorporated only on July 19, 2004, or just five months ago, Arroyo said. Aside from Sun, its incorporators were Mariano L. Tan, Lawrence The, Josephy Ty and Edison Ty.

Arroyo said the sale of the Masinloc plant, "on its face and without delving into the terms," looked good since P30 billion would reduce considerably the country's public debt stock.

Zubiri tags report on Pagcor measure an honest mistake

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

BUKIDNON Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri, chair of the House committee on legislative franchises, yesterday denied reports that his committee had recommended the approval of a bill that would extend the powers of the state gambling authority, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., allowing it to enter into joint ventures with private firms, including operators of floating casinos.

"It was an honest mistake," Zubiri said.

"Maybe there was a glitch in the filing of the bill, that a copy of the version similar to the one approved by the House in the last Congress was mechanically downloaded or ended up being mingled with copies of the version approved by the committee," Zubiri said.

Zubiri said a committee report supposedly authorizing Pagcor to enter into joint ventures with foreign corporations and entities was "not the official report."

"What we recommended was a bill that was two pages long that did not contain the alleged provisions," he said.

"Another version which was not the real report somehow managed to be submitted to the House bills and index division, which in turn was accessed by media," Zubiri said in a telephone interview.

"What is officially on file now and the one that will be reported out for second reading is the short, simple, uncomplicated two-page bill, the one supported by transcripts of the committee discussions," he said.

Zubiri explained that what his committee recommended was a mere extension of Pagcor's current franchise, which is to expire in July 2008, by another 25 years.

Far from widening Pagcor's powers, the committee was strengthening the provisions against the proliferation of state-sponsored gambling in the bill, Zubiri said.

"We are exempting jai-alai from the menu of games Pagcor can operate which under the old law it could. We are requiring that the explicit consent of local governments be secured before Pagcor can operate in this area," he said.

Zubiri said that under the proposed new franchise of Pagcor, slot machines would also be banned from malls or establishments open or accessible to the general public, unless these are in resorts and hotels.

"Clearly, we are restricting the scope of Pagcor's reach, not liberalizing its operations. The bill simply extends the term of the franchise period," he said.

However, like all congressional measures, the committee report will be subjected to plenary debate and amendments.

Asked why an unofficial copy of the bill was circulated in the House and reached reporters there, Zubiri said there could have been a glitch.

He noted that a bill extending the term of Pagcor's franchise had been approved by the last Congress.

Zubiri acknowledged that a number of lawmakers had pushed for authorizing Pagcor to undertake joint ventures with foreigners, but they did not prevail.

Palace reminds Congress to pass tax measures

MALACAÑANG yesterday warned Congress that a delay in the passage of the proposed new tax measures would have an adverse effect on the country's fiscal condition.

With only a week left before Congress adjourns for its Christmas break, the proposed revenue measures are still far from being approved by both chambers.

"The executive and the legislative are fully aware of the repercussions of a delay in coming up with new revenue measures, and we are confident that the common sense of urgency will bring timely results," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo was inclined to call a special session of Congress during the scheduled Christmas break if the legislators would agree to work overtime to pass the tax measures.

Malacañang is banking on the passage of at least four of eight proposed tax measures intended to address the budget deficit, avert a credit downgrade for the Philippines, and improve the economic outlook for the coming year.

The President had said that at least P80 billion could be raised from the new tax measures.

Bunye said the President was hoping Congress leaders would make good on their commitment to approve at least four measures before the year is over.

These include the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products, the lateral attrition or accountability bill, the lifting of value-added tax exemptions of oil companies and some professionals, and an increase in the value-added tax on the windfall profits of telecommunication companies.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

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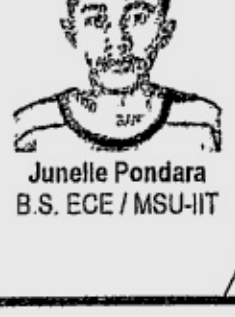
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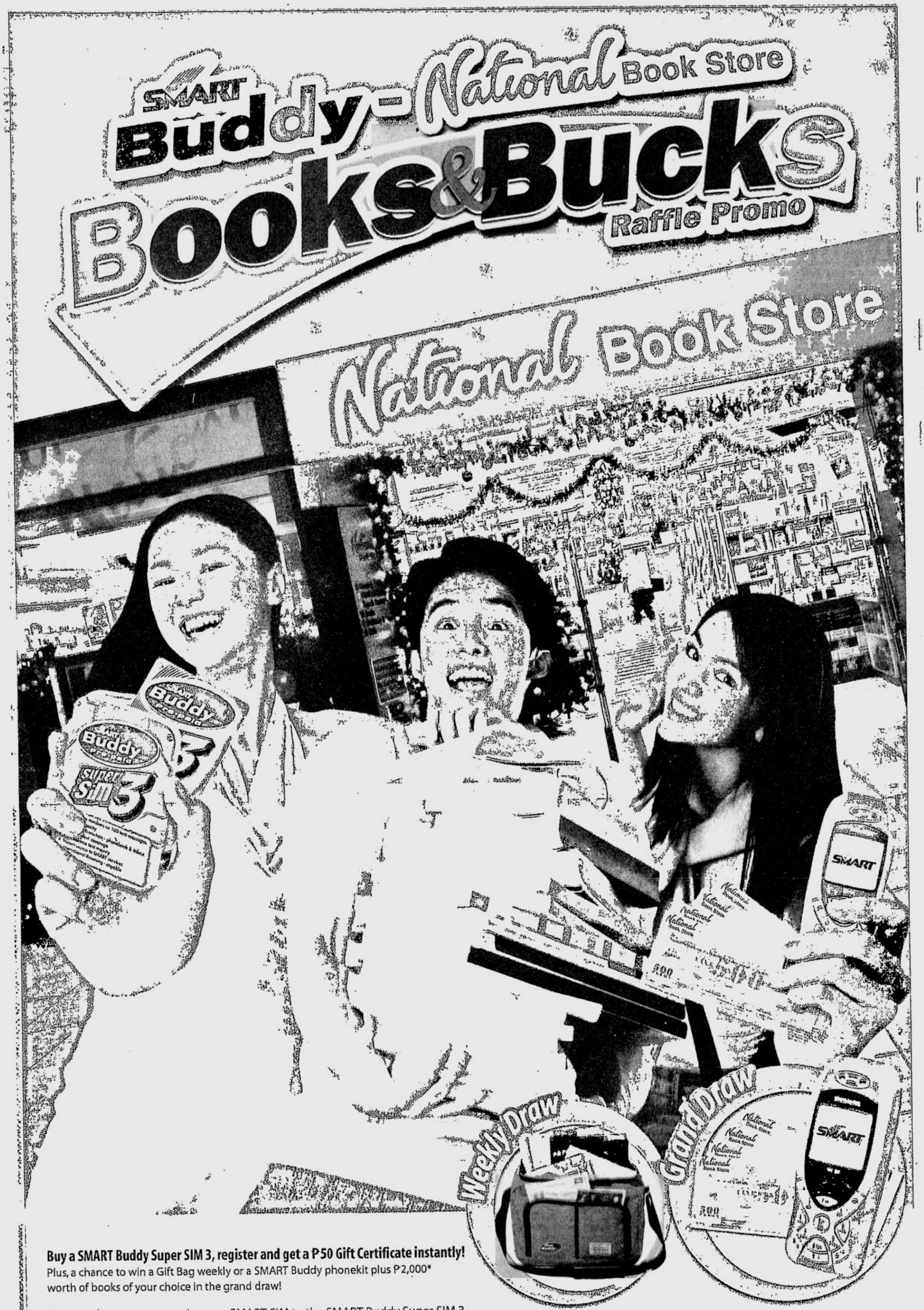

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1st Portuguese to get award in RP finds home, serenity

From page A1

forgot to promote the Portuguese culture at public gatherings.

The bespectacled Girão, who showed up in a simple black dress and an embroidered white shawl, sat quietly as the ambassador read his speech in Portuguese. She finally broke into a smile after he pinned the decoration—a cross medal—on her.

"Oh, I have done nothing," she would later say with a wave of her hand, playing down her accomplishments that in a way bridged the gap between Manila and Lisbon during a 22-year-period.

After a "democratic revolution" in 1974, Portugal closed its embassy in Manila, and only maintained an honorary consul. It reopened its embassy in 1997.

The Philippines also closed its embassy in Lisbon in the '70s, and has not reopened it to this day.

PORTUGUESE envoy to the Philippines Jao da Silva presents the prestigious Order of Infante D. Henrique on Tuesday to Maria Jullia Girao Dancel. The decoration was confirmed by Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio. BETOY JOHNSON

Finding love at 50

Girão was born on Feb. 20, 1913 in Covilhã, located in the heart of Portugal. She met Dancel in Rome in 1963 when they were both vacationing. They were drawn to each other because they were both 50 and had lost their respective spouses.

Dancel spoke only a smattering of Italian. Girão, who was then working as administration secretary for Pan-American Airline, offered to be his tour guide.

She must have made quite an impression because soon after, she started receiving letters from Dancel, followed by an invitation to visit Manila. She did visit Manila in October 1963 and stayed for two weeks. Not long after she got back home, he proposed marriage; she said yes.

They got married in Mexico in January 1964. A widower, Dancel had five children and worked at the Bureau of Customs. They decided to settle in Manila, which Girão "liked right away."

In the first few months, she looked after her husband's three young children. But she still had a lot of time in her hands.

"I didn't want to get a job, but I wanted to do something," Girão said.

Civic work

She joined the Philippine National Red Cross and the Auxiliary Group of St. Luke's, an all-women's group that organized bazaars every year, the proceeds of which were used to buy medicines and vaccines for poor children.

Next came her involvement with the All Nations Women's Group, which she said was established mainly to erase the "ambiance of hatred and resentment" in the aftermath of the second World War and replace it with goodwill.

To promote understanding among countries, the group saw it fit for each member to present her country's culture, songs and dances at public gatherings. They mapped out their plans at the Casino Español in Manila.

Girão eventually headed All Nations for three terms. One of her projects was to raise funds to send poor boys to college.

"We'd catch them on the second year of college because that's when they would usually give up [for lack of money]," she said, vividly recalling that they would go around colleges to scout for that poor boy they could adopt as a scholar. "We help them through college. It was very gratifying. I loved doing that."

While she was the group's president, Girão broached the novel idea of funding the education of blind students.

Promoting European culture

She also worked for Alliance Française and helped establish and run its library, first located in "a villa with a garden" in Pasay City before eventually moving to its present location in Makati City.

"When I started, there were about 100 books. When I left, 25 years later, we had 8,000 books," she said with pride.

It didn't take long for the French government to take notice of Girão's dedication to promote European and French cultures. She served as a member of Alliance's administrative committee and eventually, as its vice president.

French medal

She was conferred the medal "Chevalier de l' ordre des Palmes Academiques." (Girão is a lifetime member of All Nations and Alliance Française).

At around the same time, Girão gave tutorials in Portuguese at her residence in Quezon City and on rare occasions, she would hold "informal sessions" right inside the embassies at the request of the busy diplomats.

Despite her busy schedule, she found time to organize exhibitions and present slide shows on the old Portugal, its culture and people.

It helped that her husband never asked her to get a job. "He was proud of my volunteer work for Filipinos," she said.

In 1997, Girão, then 84, was elected member of the Portuguese Council for the Communities in Asia.

Important translation

The following year, she was asked by former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor to translate portions of a movie about the Philippines into Portuguese for showing at the World Expo in Lisbon that same year.

Although she was leaving for Lisbon in two days, she accepted the job.

"I looked at it and I thought: I cannot do this in a hurry. So I went to bed. At midnight, I got up again, sat behind my desk and in 20 minutes, I finished the translation. My God, it was good," she said chuckling. And, she was all of 85.

The next day, Girão got another request from Gabor: Record the translation. Again, she agreed.

"When I went to Lisbon, I went to the Expo [and saw the film]. I was very happy because it turned out well," she said. "That was the last important Portuguese translation I did."

Feeling at home

In 1998, her husband died. Despite advice from friends to return to Portugal, she decided to stay in Manila. Each year, she would travel to Portugal, stay four months and spend the rest of the time in the Philippines.

"I love the people here. I feel at home," said Girão, who stays in a condominium in Greenhills, San Juan. (Her five stepchildren are all in the United States.)

In Manila, she had found serenity.

"In Europe nowadays, there's no serenity. Everybody is rushing all the time. Here, people take time and enjoy life," she said.

Tunnel repairs rushed

From page A1

meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

"This incident should galvanize Metro Manilans to carry on a strong environmental cause, support the anti-illegal logging campaign by word and deed, and back legislation to save our forests."

Dumagats removing debris by hand

MWSS Administrator Orlando Honrade said the equipment for repairs could not be brought to the area yet due to bad weather and road conditions, and that the debris clogging the channel was being removed manually by natives at this time.

"I already got Dumagats, about 50 of them, working there to remove the debris," he told reporters.

He said around 50 soldiers would bring the clearing equipment to the collapsed tunnel on Monday.

"Aside from cutting water supply for irrigation, we may have to implement a 10 percent water cutback for Metro Manila residents, and this will affect at least 80,000 households, or more than half a million people," MWSS deputy administrator Macra Cruz said.

The MWSS said there was no imminent danger of a water shortage in Metro Manila.

Present at the meeting were Honrade, Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina of the Office of Civil Defense, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Cabinet Officer for Provincial Events Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco.

"We may have to resort to tankering to distribute water to affected residents."

GMA to inspect tunnel

Bad weather in the Sierra Madre prevented Ms Arroyo from flying yesterday to inspect the tunnel.

"I tried to go there but the roads were impassable and the weather condition did not allow [for a helicopter flight]. We'll do it some other time," she said.

Ms Arroyo ordered the immediate release of an initial P20 million for the repair of the tunnel.

Ms Arroyo and the four officials wanted to fly to Umiray but Col. Ruben Rafael of the Army's 702nd Brigade advised against the trip.

"The (tunnel) was totally closed with logs, debris and big boulders," Honrade said in a press conference. He said he was able to fly to the area last Thursday.

Total collapse

"I was surprised with the damage. It was totally collapsed," he said.

Honrade said the Italian contractor of the P2-billion tunnel was sending a representative on Monday to help undertake the repairs.

Honrade, however, expressed confidence the tunnel could be repaired before April and there would be no water shortage in the metropolis.

"Initially, our timetable to make the water available is four months. In the meantime, Metro Manila is no problem because Angat is still full, the elevation is about 214.43 (meters). That can sustain the (needs) of Metro Manila and even the (irrigation requirements of) farmers of Bulacan and Pampanga up to April," Honrade said.

Help from Laguna Lake

He said the worst case would be a reduction in the water allocation both for domestic use of Metro Manila and the irrigation of farmlands in the neighboring provinces.

"But we also have an alternative—Laguna Lake will be tapped," Honrade said.

Honrade said Ms Arroyo had ordered the fast-tracking of the bidding for the water desalination project for Laguna Lake. The bids will be opened on Jan. 15.

Limcaoco, who headed the Laguna Lake Development Authority during the Aquino administration, said the plan to tap Laguna Lake for an additional source of potable water for Metro Manila had been in the pipeline for many years.

Total cutback for irrigation

He said Laguna Lake would be an "endless source" of water for Metro Manila once the desalination project was in place.

Potable water can be sourced from Laguna Lake in 12 to 18 months, he said.

Cruz said that if the water supply tightened in Luzon, "the first that has to be cut would be the water for irrigation to save the supply for household consumption. It is the national mandate."

Cruz said a 100-percent water cutback for irrigation in Central Luzon, particularly Bulacan and Pampanga, would likely be implemented in April next year.

No crisis foreseen

Water officials will meet tomorrow to evaluate the impact of the damage on the tunnel, she said.

"We are still determining the number of logs that are stuck in the tunnel," Cruz said, adding that the clearing and rehabilitation work would take three to six months.

Cruz said if the supplies fell low, among the countermeasures would be the rationing of water and the preparation of tankers and fire trucks which would distribute water to affected residents.

But she said the situation would not turn into a crisis.

PAF spokesman talks straight– a military rarity

From page A1

typhoons, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla would send them funny text messages.

"I can assure you a seat in the helicopter to the most isolated barangay, but use your persuasion powers to get a return flight," his message to the INQUIRER read.

Padilla's point was clear:

While it was important for the military to get as wide a media mileage as possible for its relief and rescue operations, there would be no bumping off of typhoon victims or their relatives in case they needed to be flown out of the disaster area immediately.

In a military beclouded with double talk and the usual long-winded obfuscations, Padilla comes like a beam of sunshine. He answers questions directly.

Eloquent in English or Tagalog, Padilla's answers to media queries are highly informative. Not for him to beat around the question.

"Your soldiers are very dependable, that is what we have been saying all along," Padilla said in an interview. "The bad eggs are very few." And the voice with which he speaks is convincing, sincere.

'Everywhere'

And speaking like a pilot assessing his flight, the helicopter pilot-turned-media officer said: "Barring any disturbances in weather, the AFP will have continuous operations to save lives."

PADILLA: Informative, sincere

Padilla was "everywhere" during the emergency, answering reporters' queries and giving them updates on military operations in calamity-stricken areas.

And, of course, he kept on sending his funny text messages.

Rattling off a report on the progress of military operations in the wake of cyclones Unding, Violeta, Winnie and Yoyong, Padilla said 25 aircraft, including the Philippine Air Force's lone Blackhawk, had already logged a total of 586 flying hours ferrying relief good, airlifting victims to safety and bringing in medical teams to stricken areas.

As of Friday, he said, the PAF had already airlifted a total of 126 medical and health workers, 355 patients, and almost 10,000 sacks, boxes and bags of food, medicines and clothing for the typhoon victims in Aurora and Quezon.

Occupational hazard

One helicopter conked out in mid-air during the week, but he explained it away as a hazard expected in a pilot's mission.

The expected arrival of US aircraft during the week would "ease the load" from the PAF, Padilla said.

He said at least six US Chinook helicopters would airlift large volume of relief goods to major staging points in Real, General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon. From there, the smaller PAF helicopters will transport the goods to remote villages.

Responding to emergencies during times of natural calamities is not new to Padilla, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1985.

Earthquake, Pinatubo eruption

In July 1990, he flew a Huey helicopter that conducted the first aerial assessment of the extent of damage of the killer quake that struck Baguio City. He was then a first lieutenant.

At the height of the ash falls spewn by Mt. Pinatubo in its powerful eruption a year later, Padilla was one of seven pilots who flew and assessed the situation in Central Luzon.

"It was a hazardous flight. Once you land, you disturb the fine volcanic ash on the ground that can give you zero visibility," Padilla recalled.

But again, it was all in the name of service, he said.

The Padilla household, he said, understands his job.

All in the family

During the typhoon relief operations, Padilla's children reacted by donating their allowances to the calamity victims. "So I had to give my share," he laughed.

If he had a choice, "I just want to stay in the background," he said.

In fact, that was what he had been aiming for since he was thrust into media glare when then Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor named him head of the PAF public information office.

"I just want to do my job professionally. I want to stay in the background," Padilla said.

Father and son

It was an advice that former Army chief retired Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Sr., would tell his son—Padilla Jr.—every time the scandal-prone AFP would hog the limelight.

At the height of a reported jockeying for the position of AFP chief of staff in November 2002, the young Padilla, who was identified in the media as allied with then outgoing military chief General Defensor, got a call from the older Padilla.

"He told me to do my job professionally, and to stay above the intrigues," Padilla Jr., said.

Men willing to give an arm for phallic reconstruction

From page A1

operation, known as total phallic reconstruction, dramatically improved their quality of life and, for some, allowed them to experience a full sex life for the first time.

The condition, known as micropenis, is defined as a penis no greater than 3 inches in length when fully erect. Micropenis can result from a variety of causes, including inadequate exposure to testosterone before birth and genetic factors, according to study findings presented Wednesday at the European Society for Sexual Medicine conference in London.

As the name implies, total phallic reconstruction is a comprehensive operation that addresses all aspects of penile function. The main tissue for the new penis is obtained from the forearm and incorporated into the patient's existing penis. Microsurgical techniques are used to connect blood vessels and nerves. Lastly, an inflatable penile prosthesis is placed to mimic normal erectile function.

19 men

In the present study, Dr. David Ralph and colleagues, from University College London, described nine men, between 19 and 43 years of age, who underwent the procedure at their institution. The subjects included three hermaphrodites and two men with testosterone problems. The average penis length was just over 1 inch.

All of the men were satisfied with the cosmetic outcome of their operation, which aimed for a new penis length of about 5 inches. In addition, the operation allowed four men to urinate in the standing position and allowed four to have regular sexual intercourse.

Risks

Despite these benefits, the procedure was not without its risks. Infectious complications, a shift in the prosthesis position, and the need for surgical revisions were all fairly common problems.

"None of the past treatments for micropenis have been very effective," Ralph said. "So it is not uncommon for these patients to undergo multiple operations."

Complications are common with total phallic reconstruction, "but at the end of the day, all of the patients achieved good results and were 100 percent satisfied with their outcomes," he added.

Still uncommon

Despite its potential for "changing the life of men with micropenis," Ralph noted that total phallic reconstruction "really hasn't caught on elsewhere." But, he is hopeful that the presentation at the current meeting might help change this. *Reuters*

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Globe

Brits warned anew of terror threat

BRITAIN warned travelers of persisting threats of kidnapping and terrorism in the Philippines, cautioning in its latest advisory issued Saturday against going to some places in the south.

"There is a high threat from terrorism and kidnapping throughout the Philippines," said the advisory issued by the British Embassy, warning people they might get caught up in terrorist attacks.

It noted previous cases of bombings, mostly in Mindanao, but also in Manila such as grenades thrown at buildings last April, June and November.

The advisory cited increased security placed around embassies and consulates in Manila after the recent attack on the United States consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Among the possible sources of attacks identified were the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim kidnapping gang linked by Washington and Manila to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden; the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's main Muslim separatist group, and the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines which is also on the Washington blacklist. *AFP*

Nayan kidnapper nabbed

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani security forces have arrested the head of a militant Islamic group suspected of kidnapping three United Nations workers, including a Filipino, in Afghanistan in October, a senior Cabinet minister said Saturday.

Syed Akbar Agha, chief of Jaish-al Muslimeen or Army of Muslims, was captured in the southern city of Karachi this week, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said. He gave no other details.

Armed men seized Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan from Northern Ireland and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo on Oct. 28. They were freed unharmed in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Nov. 23 and returned to their homes.

Another senior leader of the group confirmed Agha's arrest.

"According to our information, he was arrested along with his wives and children from Karachi," said the man, who spoke on condition that he not be named.

An intelligence official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the women and children had been freed.

Cell phone gave him away

Afghan and US officials had sought Islamabad's help to track Agha down, after he used a mobile phone to contact the media to claim responsibility for the abduction, an intelligence official said.

The official said Agha's real name was Haji Fazal Karim.

Agha is a former Afghan commander who joined the country's Taliban militia as it swept toward power in 1995, according to Pakistan's largest-circulation newspaper The News. He served as the Taliban military commander in the then-front line at Maidan Shahr, capital of Wardak province west of Kabul, for 11 months, it said.

Agha was later expelled from the Taliban by its chief, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Launched in December

Agha in a recent interview told The News that he launched his group in December 2001 after the fall of the Taliban regime to fight US-led forces in Afghanistan and liberate his homeland. His group has claimed a number of attacks on US and Afghan troops.

Ahmed said Agha was being interrogated by Pakistani security agencies, but would not say whether he would be turned over to Afghan authorities.

"He is right now in our custody, and we have the capability to interrogate people like him," he told Geo television.

After the kidnapping, Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said Agha's group may have hired bandits to abduct the UN workers, who helped organize Afghanistan's Oct. 9 presidential election.

Prisoner swap

Agha last month told AP that he would free the trio if Aghan authorities accepted the group's demand for the release of 26 prisoners held in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Agha's group said 15 of the prisoners they wanted released were seized by American troops near the southern border town of Spin Boldak last month. The others were detained earlier and some may have been transferred to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Afghan officials insist the three UN workers were freed without the payment of ransom or any other concession being made to the kidnappers, who abandoned their captives on a street in Kabul. *AP*

Marian Crusade

Q. 6 What concrete passages in the Old Testament can be cited which refer to Mary?

A. The following Biblical Texts can be cited that refer to Mary.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
Genesis 3:15 (This is referred as the Proto-evangelium)

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel..."
Isaiah 7:14

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler of Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she is in travail has brought forth..."
Micah 5:2-3

Luisita lost P64.3M due to unrest

By Volt Contreraa

HACIENDA Luisita Inc. incurred P64.3 million in losses last month due to the labor unrest that plagued the vast sugar plantation in Tarlac where at least seven people were killed and scores were injured during the violent dispersal of striking workers by the military and police.

The Cojuangco-owned farm also lost the harvest in some 897 hectares planted to sugar, or roughly 20 percent of the HLI's 4,900 hectares because of "cane burning incidents related to the labor strike," according to the plantation manager's report to the HLI board of directors.

The report also said that security around the farm suffered during the strike that began on Nov. 6, resulting in "rampant" theft particularly of scrap metal, railroad tracks and pipes within the hacienda. The report pinned the theft on "erring residents."

HLI also said striking workers "intimidated unsympathetic" coworkers and "forcibly closed" management offices in the different barrios covered by the hacienda, except the office in Balete.

"Suspects armed with homemade truncheons nailed all doors of the barrio offices," the report said.

Bodily harm

"Attempts (by management) to give manual field jobs to those who wanted to work did not succeed. Strikers threatened that they would be bodily harmed or an unidentified armed group would visit them in the field if they insisted on working," it said.

Due to the damage to crops, the report said, the farmers will have a smaller share under the company's production-sharing arrangement with its work force.

Under the HLI's stock distribution option (SDO) scheme, a controversial setup being questioned by militant peasant groups, farmers are regarded as stockholders entitled to a 3-percent share of the gross sales of the harvest.

According to the report, the farmers collectively stand to suffer a P1.9 million cut in their annual income for this year.

Latest victim

HLI issued the report three days after peasant leader Marcelino Beltran, who was set to testify in a congressional inquiry into last month's violent dispersal at Luisita, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at his Tarlac residence.

The labor dispute at HLI has also affected sugar millers and some 4,500 sugar planters in Tarlac.

Milling operations at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac have been interrupted by the unresolved labor dispute at HLI.

Sugar planters from Capas, Bamban and Concepcion towns in Tarlac said that the protracted strike is adversely affecting their businesses and livelihood.

They said the interrupted milling operation had unnecessarily increased their cost and had depleted their work force as workers seek employment elsewhere.

CAT preferred

The planters had preferred to have their harvested crops milled by CAT due to its accessibility and efficiency in sugar recovery.

But due to the strike, the Tarlac sugar planters claimed that they were forced to transport their harvested sugar cane to mills in Pampanga.

For crop year 2004-2005, the combined harvest in the sugar districts of Tarlac and Pampanga totalled 1.6 million tons.

Basecom and Sweet Crystal mills in Pampanga can accommodate only 700,000 tons of cane at a combined operating capacity of 6,500 tons per day.

This means that some 900,000 tons would be left to dry if the situation at HLI does not improve and CAT remains idle.

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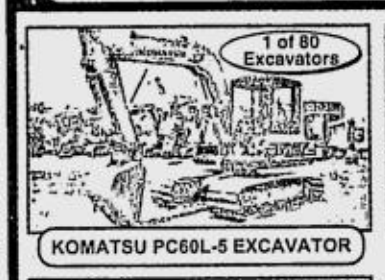

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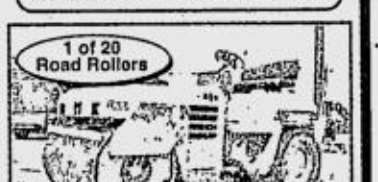

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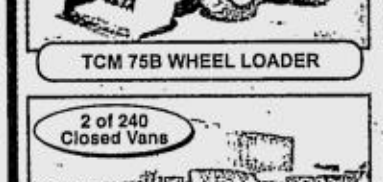
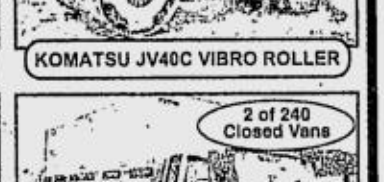
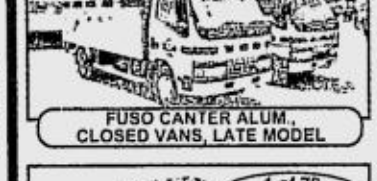


FUSO CANTER ALUM., CLOSED VANS, LATE MODEL



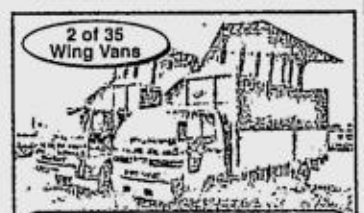
ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM., CLOSED VANS



FUSO CANTER DROPSIDE, w/ POWER TAIL GATE

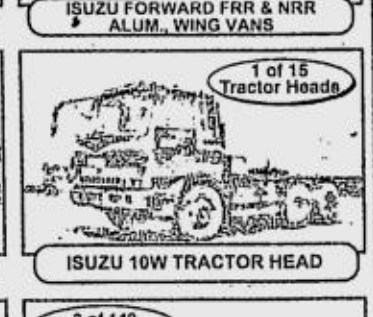
ISUZU FORWARD FRR & NRR ALUM., WING VANS

FUSO TADANO SELF-LOADER TRUCK



ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD

ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK



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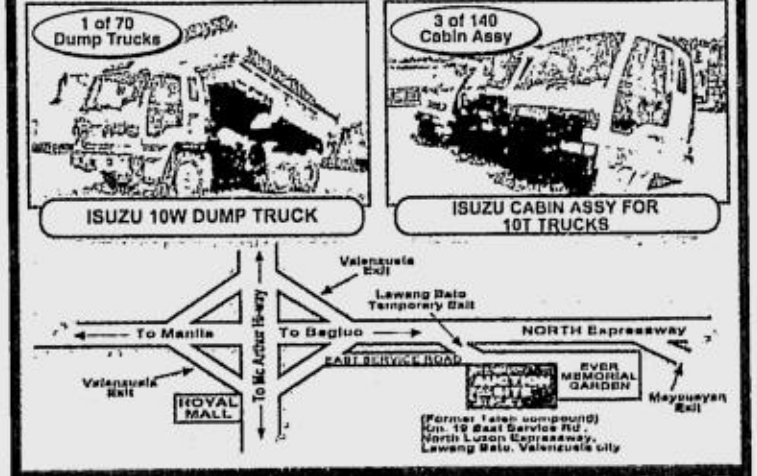

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Manila Water

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The interconnection of a segment of the ongoing major pipe replacement project called A. Rita will cause a temporary water service interruption in portions of Manila **from 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 13, 2004, up to 12:01 p.m., Tuesday, December 14.** The activity is part of Manila Water's aggressive water improvement program.

Affected areas are San Andres, Sta. Ana and Paco.

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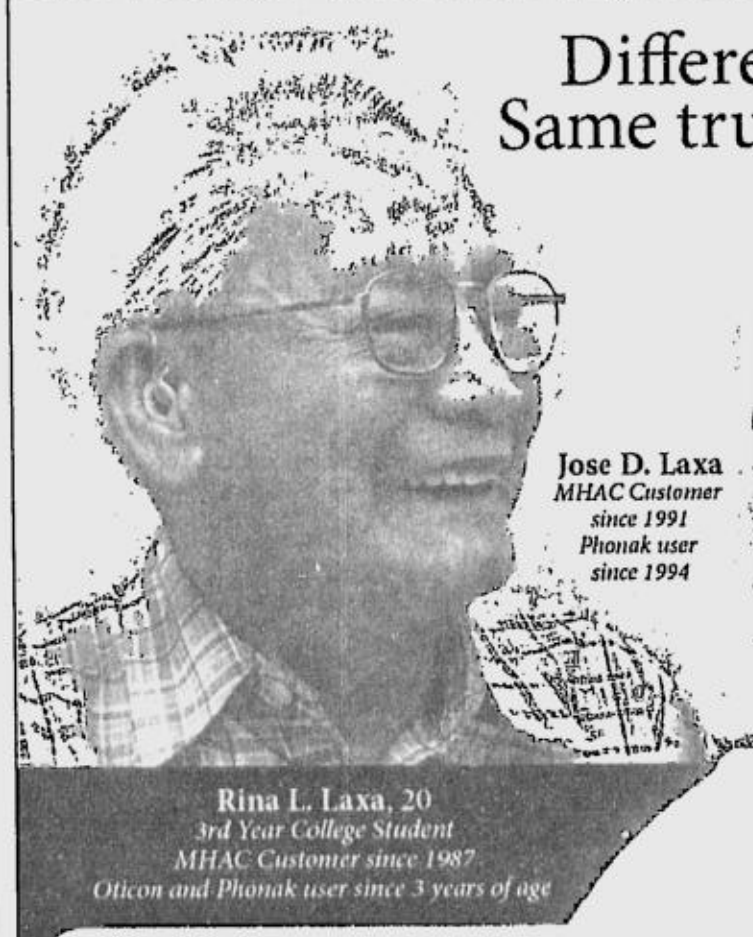

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'Crackers explode killing 9-yr-old

CEBU CITY—A 9-year-old boy was killed while his mother and younger brother were seriously injured on Friday night when firecrackers exploded inside their small home in Lapulapu City on Mactan Island, Cebu.

Police said the fatality, Restituto Manayon Tangayan, suffered second-degree burns on at least 75 percent of his body.

He died at 11 p.m. at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) in Cebu City, more than four hours after the incident happened at about 6:40 p.m.

Tangayan's brother Restie, 6, suffered second-degree burns in at least 65 percent of his body and was in critical condition at the VSMMC.

The boys' mother Godofreda, 45, suffered serious burns in her feet and was confined in the same government hospital.

SFO1 Atilano Berido, Lapulapu Fire Department investigator, told the INQUIRER Godofreda and her two sons were in their kitchen making different kinds of pyrotechnics.

Berido said the boys were helping their mother attach fuses to firecrackers when their younger sister, Jade, 3, accidentally knocked over a lighted mosquito coil which fell on the firecrackers, triggering an explosion. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ask US to reconsider nurse policy, solons urge gov't

TWO congressmen yesterday urged the government to ask the United States to reconsider a policy to stop processing work permits for Filipino and other foreign nurses beginning Jan. 1 next year.

The labor and foreign affairs departments have to act fast and and negotiate the opening of new labor markets for Filipino nurses and other overseas Filipino workers, said Representatives Roseller Barinaga (NPC, Zamboanga del Norte), chair of the House committee on labor and employment, and Lorna Silverio (Lakas, Bulacan), chair of the committee on interparliamentary relations and service.

A US state department bulletin said that starting Jan. 1, 2005, the US government will not be processing applications for work permits filed after January 2002. This means that the usual 60-day wait for approval could now drag on for years.

Barinaga said the US decision would have serious repercussions on the country, which has long been a major source of nurses for hospitals in the US, Canada and the Middle East.

"It's a major blow to the country which is known for producing highly-trained nurses. It's so sudden. We should have been given enough time to deal with it considering that many of our nurses have pending applications," he said.

Barinaga said the government should express to the US its "deep concern and objection to its policy," or ask that it exempt Filipino nurses from the restriction "since our local nurses are highly qualified to work in US hospitals." *Cynthia D. Balana*

At 41, he's new bishop

THE VATICAN yesterday announced the appointment of the country's youngest Catholic bishop.

Pope John Paul II appointed Fr. Reynaldo G. Evangelista, 41, as the new bishop of Boac, Marinduque. He succeeds Bishop Jose F. Oliveros who was named bishop of Malolos, Bulacan, in May.

"I am pleased to inform you that His Holiness Pope John Paul II has appointed Most Reverend Reynaldo G. Evangelista as the bishop of the diocese of Boac," said Archbishop Antonio Franco, the apostolic nuncio to the Philippines.

Franco announced the appointment to the media early yesterday evening, simultaneous with its publication in the Vatican.

Evangelista will head the Boac diocese which covers the entire province of Marinduque and is famous for its Moriones Festival during Holy Week.

With his appointment, Evangelista also becomes the youngest member of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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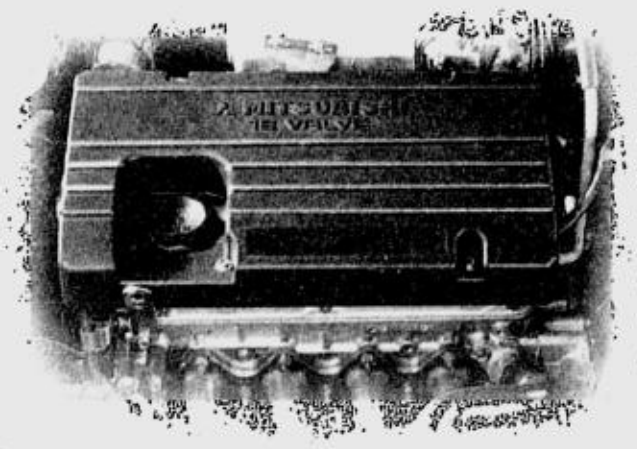

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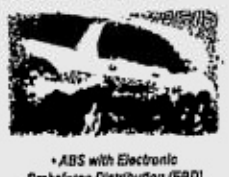
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THE TROUBLE with going home for these folks in Real, Quezon, is that they do not only have to go through thick layers of mud, rocks, logs and uprooted trees, they are not certain if their homes are still standing and/or are habitable. AP

'No more signs of life,' say rescuers in collapsed resort

From page A1

bodies from the ruins.

Nearly 1,800 people are dead or missing in Luzon after four tropical cyclones in two weeks set off torrents of water, mud, boulders and logs that swept away villages and bridges.

At least three million Filipinos have been affected. With disease a major worry, relief efforts are focused on getting food, clean water, medicine and shelter to 650,000 of the most desperate by helicopter or boat and on foot.

Tignoan barangay chief Ariel Montes said he hoped rescuers would continue their work.

Montes said the decision of the private rescuers to pull out was "saddening."

"I have not yet retrieved my parents from the ruins. But at least other residents of my village have seen their dead," he said.

At the disaster site, a mechanical backhoe attempted to crack the concrete roof of the fallen building to dig out any bodies that might be trapped underneath.

They found the body of a woman, too decomposed to recognize. A man at the site, Russel Penaojas, identified it as the body of his wife Irene from the clothes.

With a grim look on his face, Penaojas told the backhoe operator: "Just be careful digging things up because the body of my child might be nearby."

He said the child and the mother had been together when the building went down.

Malou Bautista said her son died from injuries when the building collapsed. Her niece is still buried in the ruins and believed dead.

She said many of her fellow villagers were leaving their community but her family would stay.

"We are not afraid," Bautista said. "We know God's law—when your contract is finished, that's the end."

THE RAINS have yet to quit the town of Infanta in Quezon, and so this little girl with feet caked in mud seeks shelter under an umbrella. AFP

Relief assistance

Amisola said four Philippine Navy ships arrived at the port of nearby Infanta town and unloaded 20 tons of food. The ships will carry people who want to leave Infanta and nearby towns, he said.

The Philippines has received relief assistance and donations from countries including the United States, which deployed about 600 US Marines now at an advance post in Clark, Pampanga.

Two US CH-46 transport helicopters delivered water to General Nakar town early yesterday. Another pair of CH-46s ferried food and other relief goods to Real when the weather cleared, said Marine Lt. Jasmine Templeton, spokesperson for the US task force involved in relief assistance.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said rehabilitation efforts were being stepped up as private and foreign donations had assured that there would be enough relief supplies for those affected by the storms.

Standby funds

Soliman said that while her department had exhausted the P87 million allocated for immediate disaster relief, another P500 million for additional relief and rehabilitation has been set aside and was on standby.

"We're not using that (additional allocation) because the response of the private sector has been overwhelming," she said, remarking that she had P36 million in relief goods already in warehouses, ready for distribution.

She also said there was enough food to prevent starvation and medical personnel on the ground had said there was no sign of epidemics, with the main concern now being to make sure that the most remote areas were reached by the relief efforts.

Mental trauma

The National Center for Mental Health has sent two teams to Quezon to assess the mental condition of the victims of the storms.

Dr. Ariel Valencia, the Department of Health's disaster coordinator in Region 4, said the teams flew in from Metro Manila Friday and would help assess the need for post-trauma rehabilitation among the survivors.

"The treatment depends on how much shock and mental stress they suffered," Valencia told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added: "Rehabilitation for those who lost entire families, for example, will be different from those who simply witnessed people suffering."

Counseling

"Usually, the doctors have to check if the survivors are still in touch with themselves, if they still know who they are or where they are. And then they can start with the counseling."

Valencia said the NCMH teams would return to Metro Manila by the weekend and another team from the state mental hospital would fly there on Tuesday for the rehabilitation work. *Reports from Inquirer wires and Blanche S. Rivera*

Kiko fears for safety of US troops

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan yesterday expressed apprehension over the security of US troops assisting in relief operations in Quezon province.

Pangilinan said in a phone interview that Malacañang, through the defense department, should seriously look into the matter.

"While we welcome help from the international community, we should limit the US troops' participation in relief operations in areas where their safety is not compromised," he said, adding:

"We cannot have a repeat of the encounter between government troops and communist rebels at the height of the tragedy, but this time involving US soldiers."

An advance team of 40 US Marines has been deployed by the US base in Okinawa, Japan, to the Philippines to help in relief operations in the three provinces worst hit by the four tropical cyclones.

They will be joined by another 560 Marines over the next few days, according to US Navy Capt. Dennis Williams.

The deployment of US troops to the Philippines was sought by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone following a visit to the provinces of Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija the other weekend.

Ceasefire

Pangilinan, however, was mum over the security of hundreds of Filipino soldiers engaged not only in relief work but also in retrieving the casualties.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. suggested the other day a formal ceasefire between government troops and communist insurgents while the rehabilitation of the ravaged areas was ongoing.

Although the New People's Army had pledged to desist from attacking soldiers engaged in relief operations, Magsaysay said both camps should make formal their commitment to halt military offensives until relief and rehabilitation operations were completed.

AFP plays Santa to victims

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SCANDAL-WRACKED Armed Forces has decided to play Santa Claus to the typhoon victims.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said the AFP canceled its Christmas party and turned over the P4 million it would have spent on food, drinks and gifts to help the affected families.

The Philippine National Bank is also foregoing its Christmas party and has donated P500,000 to the victims, according to Conrado Limcaoco, the Cabinet officer for provincial events.

Soliman said the military and the PNB were among the agencies and organizations that were doing away with their annual Christmas party in order to extend assistance to those direly in need.

She said President Macapagal-Arroyo had also canceled the party for the Cabinet, as well as for the Malacañang employees.

Soliman said the Department of Social Welfare and Development had a budget of "only" P80,000 for its Christmas party but this was scrapped in favor of a simple fellowship.

In all, she said, the DSWD was expecting P14 million from all the Christmas parties canceled so far.

The President yesterday received P12 million from the provincial government of Cebu for the relief and rehabilitation work—the biggest donation from a local government, she said.

The government of Quezon City donated P5 million in cash and P4 million worth of relief goods.

Soliman said the DSWD account had received a total of P24 million in cash, including the P12 million from the Cebu provincial government.

She said the DSWD had also received P36 million worth of goods, P24 million of which had been distributed to the typhoon victims.

Pacquiao devastates Thai in 4 rounds

From page A1

"Pacquiao was just too fast," Fahsan told the Inquirer through his manager, who himself appeared stunned at the quick stoppage.

Pacquiao started out tight and failed to pin down his elusive, bobbing foe in the first round.

But there was no doubting the brutal outcome after Pacquiao floored Fahsan with an overhand left midway in the second round before scoring another knockdown at the end of the third.

Pacquiao then chased Fahsan all over the ring in the fourth, downed him with an uppercut, paused for a while, before going all out and scoring the paralyzing blow for the knockout at one minute 26 seconds of the round.

Pacquiao dedicated the victory to the flood victims in Quezon and now looks forward to his rematch against Juan Manuel Marquez on Feb. 26.

Super flyweight sensation Z Gorres scored an impressive 10-round decision over Fahsan's countryman Chaiyong Distar to confirm his billing as the next RP boxing star.

But it was RP lightweight champion Ferdinand Montilla who set the tone for the final bout by stopping Rey Almonicar in 47 seconds of the first round to keep his crown.

Contrary to advance reports, President Macapacal-Arroyo did not grace the star-studded event that drew a host of celebrities and top political figures, including Rep. Mikey Arroyo who got roundly booed on the two occasions his presence was announced.

Fahsan, son of poor farmers from northern Thailand, was not told about this, but he was ranked miserably like a nuisance candidate by most Filipino fight fans, mainly those who love to place bets.

His chances against Pacquiao were rated very slim, if not entirely nil.

Those who dared gamble on him did so, but only at horrible odds like 2-1, *doblado*, or much lower.

Majority of Pinoy bettors did not give Fahsan a chance of winning over Pacquiao, but they dared gamble on the fight by picking in what exact round the Thai would fall and be counted out.

That was strange, considering that Fahsan, prior to last night's fight, had never been knocked out.

He also held the reputation of having beaten a total of 20 Filipino fighters prior to the clash with Pacquiao.

The awful odds could be blamed on Pacquiao himself, whose super-athleticism has earned him the reputation as one of the world's fiercest pound-for-pound gladiators.

Of course, there was hot betting yesterday in the fish-and-veggie wet market, but the wagers were against those who picked the Thai to fall in the first round.

The popular punch went that Fahsan would indeed fall, but maybe midway in the bout, not in the starting round.

Anyway, after the Ring Magazine featherweight championship loomed as an impending mismatch, there came cries from protestors that claimed the promoters were out to rob the public after fans were forced to buy a tasteless main bout.

Fahsan had indeed appeared like a necessary nuisance after fight drumbeaters lined him up to ruin Pacquiao's future with an upset win.

Pacquiao is being packaged for multi-million dollar fights against the world top featherweights, like Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera, next year.

The Fahsan fight was specifically a tune-up match for Pacquiao's scheduled rematch against Juan Manuel Marquez on Feb. 26.

A Pacquiao fall could . ' caused widespread national despair.

No fighter since the great Flash Elorde has stolen the fancy of his countrymen like Pacquiao, the flamboyant, power-punching former construction worker, now the source of pride and symbol of hope by the poor masses all over the country.

It was the best-attended fight, held on a vast field in the former military camp in Taguig, since Luisito Espinosa successfully defended his world featherweight crown and drew nearly 300,000 fans at the Rizal Park in 1996.

It was only Pacquiao's second fight this year, after he figured in a controversial draw while trying to wrest the IBF/WBA featherweight crowns of the durable Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas last May.

Fahsan helped sell the fight by claiming he knew of a hidden spot, a soft, vulnerable portion of Pacquiao's anatomy which the Thai vowed to rip by coming out fighting.

He said he would go toe-to-toe against Pacquiao right at the first bell.

"If he does that, he would walk straight into a wall, Manny is just too superior," predicted Pacquiao's Puerto Rican cut man, Lenny de Jesus. The famous cornerman also clarified that he started working for Pacquiao only last year against Emmanuel Lucero, and not in the fight against Lehlo Ledwabah in 2001.

The Thai camp had also claimed Pacquiao, who was able to train thoroughly for less than a month, was not at peak form for last night's big fight.

Fahsan Nahrongrit Phirang, son of poor farmers from Ubon Rathani in northern Thailand, adopted the ring name Fahsan 3K Battery with a dream of coming home to a tumultuous welcome in Bangkok, where he said Pacquiao, ranked by Thais as the greatest featherweight fighter in the world today, is regarded as a hero.

Fahsan was to earn P1.7 million for agreeing to fight Pacquiao.

As added reward to his P17 million purse, Pacquiao, who turns 26 on Dec. 17, gets a holiday break, although his trainer, Freddie Roach, gave strict orders for him to report back to the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood first week of January to train for his scheduled rematch against Marquez on Feb. 26.

The Thai dreamer was wild as long shots come in a brutal, unforgiving sport like boxing.

But his chief handler, Jimmy Chachtochuang, said it was unkind to rank his fighter a necessary nuisance.

"Just look [at] what happened to Roy Jones," the Thai manager said, "nobody believed he could ever lose to Antonio Tarver."

He announced Fahsan did not come to Manila just to lose.

He said his fighter, who had never been knocked out in 52 pro fights, worked very, very hard with the goal of scoring a sensational upset equal to what Pacquiao had done when he stopped Marco Antonio Barrera last year in Texas.

Fahsan repeated his vow to win by knockout on the eve of the big bout.

Pacquiao, saying he has added a vicious right punch to his artillery, said he would just do his best for his countrymen, mainly the flood victims for whom he initially donated P200,000.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Blood money saves OFW from beheading

By Philip C. Tubeza

A FILIPINO overseas worker escaped beheading in Saudi Arabia after the Philippine government paid "blood money" to release him from the death penalty imposed on him by a Saudi court, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Primo Gasmen was ordered released by the Riyadh Grand Court on Wednesday after the DFA paid $15,000 in blood money to the family of the Nepalese national he stabbed to death in 1998, said Jose S. Brillantes, undersecretary for migrant workers affairs.

The Philippine Embassy in Riyadh will arrange for Gasmen's repatriation, Brillantes said.

Gasmen converted to Islam during his almost six years of imprisonment, he added.

Gasmen, who worked for Al-Rajhi and Sons Co. in Riyadh, was arrested and convicted in 1999 for the killing of Bahadur Gurung, but he had maintained from the start that he stabbed the Nepalese in an act of self-defense, the DFA said.

In his sworn statement, Gasmen said Gurung had offered on Dec. 24, 1998, to write off his debt of 1,500 Saudi riyals in exchange for sexual favors.

Gasmen said he refused the offer and this enraged the Nepalese, who then attempted to stab him. Gasmen said he overpowered and killed Gurung in the ensuing struggle.

The Philippine embassies in Riyadh and New Delhi and the Philippine honorary consul in Nepal initiated negotiations for the settlement of the case through the payment of blood money to Gurung's family.

A fund-raising campaign was also initiated by the Manila-based "People's Tonight International" newspaper. The amount collected by the paper became part of the $15,000 blood money that Gurung's family accepted in exchange for Gasmen's release.

The DFA official estimated that getting the needed clearances and documentation for Gasmen's repatriation would be completed before the end of the month.

Filipino, Indian seamen missing in Alaska mishap

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—A Filipino and five Indian crew members of a soybean freighter were missing after the ship ran aground and broke in two and they were thrown into the waters off the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.

The freighter belonged to Singapore-based IMC Group. IMC crew manager Loh C.W. Weng said missing were Carlos Flores Santiago, 45, from the Philippines and Indian citizens Z.M. Vaz, 46; Blaise M. Mascarenhas, 33; Narendra S. Yadav, 52; Durg V. Singh, 54, and Didlar Singh, 44.

A major spill of dense, viscous fuel from the freighter was menacing a sensitive wildlife habitat in the Aleutian Islands, but finding the six crew members remained a priority—despite their diminishing odds for survival.

"There are only so many boats and so many planes, and they have been directed to the search for life," Kurt Fredriksson, acting commissioner for the Department of Environmental Conservation, said Thursday.

Coast Guard rescue crews searched into the night, with officials saying they had not given up on finding someone alive. Estimates put survival in the 6-degree Celsius waters of the Bering Sea at about three hours.

Two cutters were at the scene of the accident and another cutter with oil vacuuming equipment was en route and expected to arrive by Saturday morning, Thomas said.

The six crew members were plunged into the sea when a Coast Guard helicopter crashed at about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday (0315 GMT Thursday) while evacuating them from the freighter. Four others, including three Coast Guard personnel, were rescued from the water by a second helicopter that evening and were in good condition Thursday.

The Coast Guard said the cause of the crash was still unknown.

The 225-m Selendang Ayu was cleaved neatly in two, both pieces grounded upright and parallel about 60-m from the shore near Skan Bay on the western side of the island.

Farther upshore lay the wreckage of the Coast Guard helicopter, its red fuselage blackened and barely recognizable.

The freighter was carrying 1.8 million liters of heavy bulk fuel and another 79,500 liters of diesel fuel. *AP*

4 SUVs seized at Subic port

SUBIC FREEPORT—Four Korean-made brand-new sport utility vehicles or SUVs concealed in two container vans declared as used televisions and refrigerators were seized here yesterday afternoon.

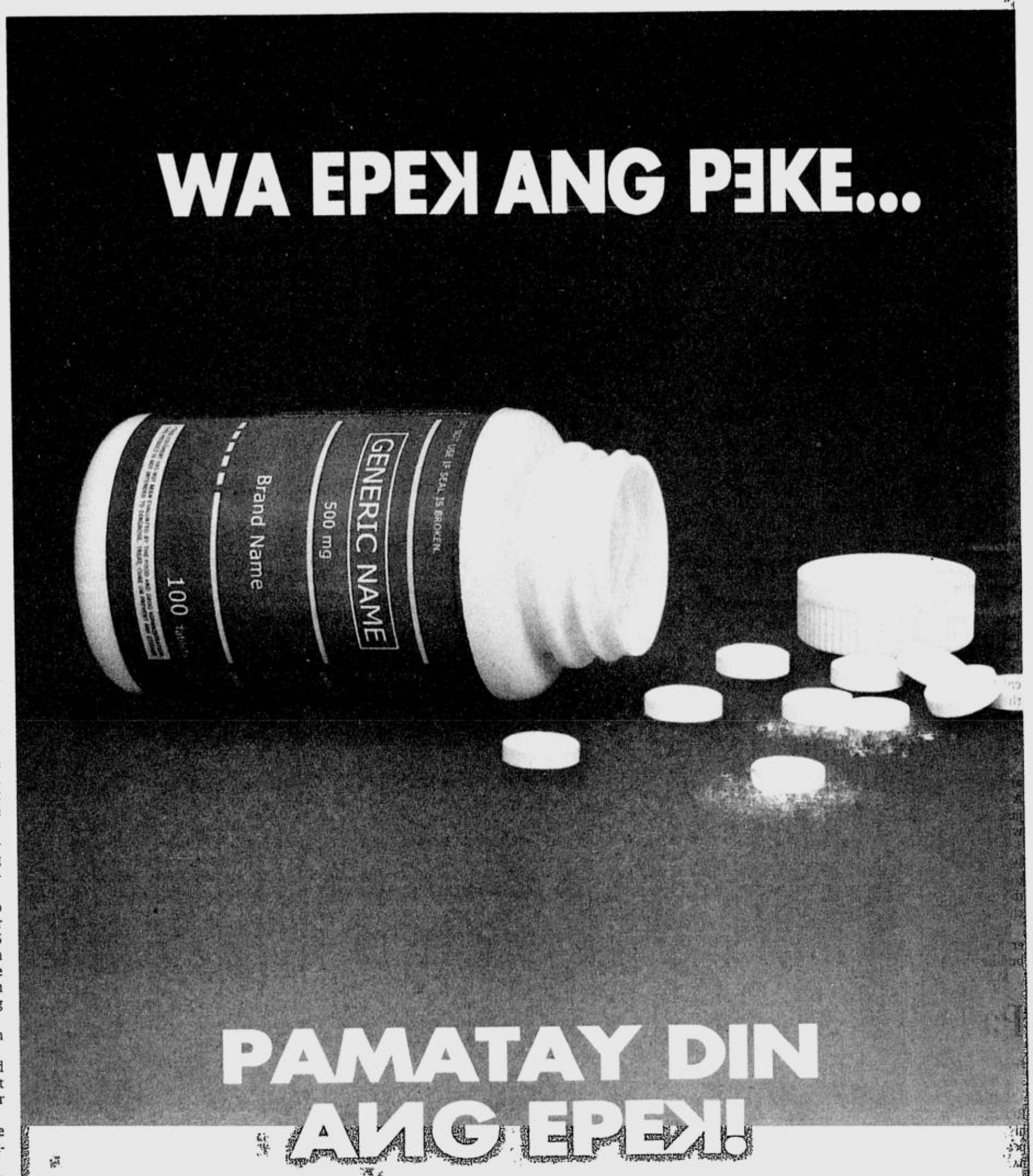
Task Force Subic agents led by Gen. Jose M. Calimlim opened the two 40-foot vans in the presence of Customs collector Marietta Zamoranos and found two SUVs in each of the vans.

Zamoranos said the vehicles worth a total of about P12 million included two Rextons manufactured by the Mercedes Benz-allied Ssyangyong Co. and two Kia Sorrentos.

Based on the shipping documents, the vans were declared as containing 540 used television sets and 100 used refrigerators.

Both shipments were consigned to FG628 Subic Bay Trading Co., the president of which was said to be Fred Galang, who reportedly had been dropping the name of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in his transactions with customs and seaport personnel of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Subic seaport officials under Percival Subala told Calimlim the two container vans were among several brought in by the cargo vessel APL New Confidence on Nov. 13.



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Italy PM escapes conviction for graft

MILAN—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi escaped conviction in a major corruption trial on Friday after a court invoked a statute of limitations that meant time had run out to sentence him for bribery.

Berlusconi welcomed the verdict, which brought down the curtain on a trial that lasted almost five years, saying he had always expected to be cleared.

"I was right to have been completely at peace about this because I was fully aware that I didn't do anything wrong," the billionaire media mogul said in a statement in Rome.

The verdict, read to a packed court in Italy's financial capital, implied that the 68-year-old Berlusconi was guilty of one count of authorizing a $434,404 bribe to a Rome judge in 1991 but could not be sentenced because of the time limit.

The court then acquitted Berlusconi of a second charge of bribing the judiciary in the late 1980s to ensure victory in a contested takeover battle for a state-owned food group.

Although Berlusconi emerges from the case with a clean criminal record, critics said the verdict still left a shadow over his reputation because the court had deployed a mechanism that prevented sentencing.

"Once more people are playing with words in order to defraud public opinion. The statute of limitations is not a declaration of innocence but it presumes guilt," said opposition politician Antonio di Pietro, a former star anti-graft magistrate.

"It is important to remember that only the length of time that has passed prohibited the judges from ruling on the merits of the case," he said.

Berlusconi, the first serving Italian prime minister to face a criminal trial, had always maintained his innocence and said he was the victim of a witchhunt by left-wing magistrates, who turned on him when he entered politics in 1994.

State prosecutors said he had authorized massive bribes to boost his business and had demanded an eight-year prison term.

But under Italian law, a court can accept "mitigating circumstances" for a defendant with a clean criminal record and halve the usual 15-year statute of limitations. *Reuters*

Opec to cut oil supply; still, crude prices drop

NEW YORK—World crude oil prices plummeted Friday as traders cast aside news of a modest Opec production cut, betting that prices are now far too high as energy stockpiles expand.

New York's main oil contract, light sweet crude for delivery in January, plunged 1.82 dollars to 40.71 dollars a barrel, the lowest finish since July 21.

Brent North Sea crude slumped $2.29 to $37.38.

Determined to pound prices, traders ignored a decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to pare output by a million barrels a day from Jan. 1.

Opec ministers meeting in Cairo made the cut to bring output closer to the official ceiling of 127 million barrels a day, a nominal cap, which they left unchanged.

"The anticipation of an Opec reduction in production was way, way, overdone," said Fimat USA market analyst Mike Fitzpatrick.

"Once that was viewed after noon today when that communique came out, also against the backdrop of Iraq providing 750,000 extra barrels to the northern pipeline to the port of Ceyhan in Turkey, it was pretty much a wash," Fitzpatrick said.

"That being the case, I think there is a general consensus in the market place that inventories are starting to replenish on a consistent basis, (that) the weather is very mild so demand is remaining low, that global economic growth is starting to slow... and it is also affecting demand," he said.

"Prices have been way out of whack and I think people want to sell going into the weekend."

Oil prices began a dramatic slide 10 days ago when the United States revealed a sharper-than-expected increase in commercial petroleum inventories, particularly heating oil.

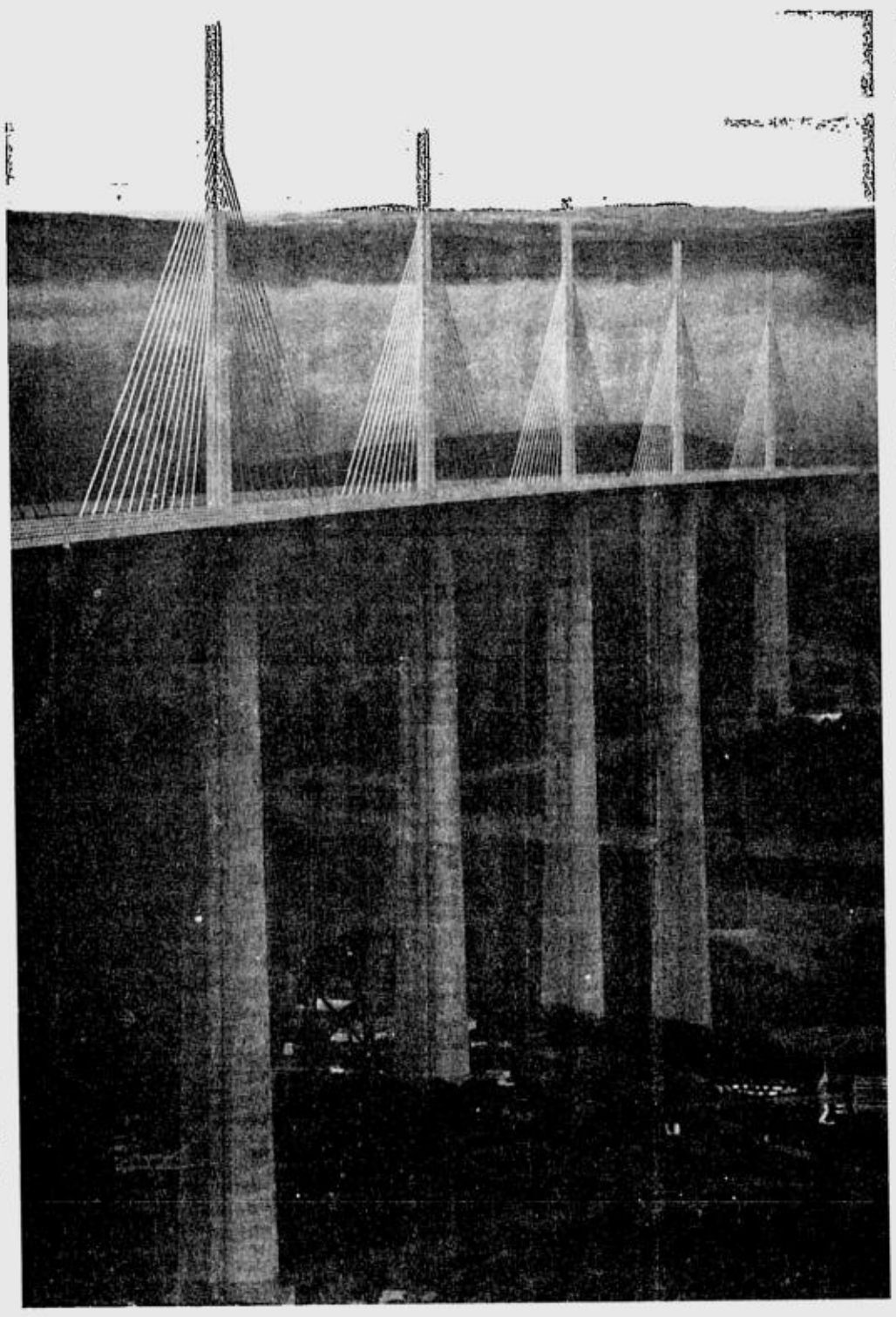
In that 10-day period, the New York price has crumbled 17.1 percent and Brent 17.9 percent.

The dive in prices prompted action from Opec, which had been pumping for months at close to full capacity to try to bring down prices from record high levels which topped $55 a barrel in New York in October.

Opec, which provides about 40 percent of the world's oil, said in a statement that it decided to lower output "to prevent oil prices continuing to deteriorate to an undesirably low level."

"The downward trend seemed to us to be a bit too rapid, and it appeared that if we did not take this sort of decision the prices would not stabilize and we would find ourselves in a situation where we couldn't control the stability of the market," said Algeria's Energy Minister Chakib Khalil.

Opec ministers will meet again at their Vienna headquarters on January 30 to review the situation. *AFP*



WORLD'S HIGHEST
The Millau viaduct is seen through mist, Dec. 7. The bridge, designed by Norman Foster and partners will be officially opened next week. Located in southern France, the bridge will connect the motorway from Paris to Barcelona at the point where it is interrupted by the River Tarn, which runs through a wide gorge between two plateaus. The structure is 23 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower—reaching 343 meters at its highest point. AFP

Bush's choice for Homeland Security retreats

WASHINGTON—Former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik late Friday abruptly withdrew his name from consideration to head the massive Homeland Security Department, saying a nanny he hired may have been an illegal immigrant.

In a statement, Kerik said he had discovered "information that now leads me to question the immigration status of a person who had been in my employ as a housekeeper and nanny."

"It has also been brought to my attention that for a period of time during such employment, required tax payments and related filings had not been made," Kerik said.

The White House did not mention the domestic employee in announcing Kerik's withdrawal from consideration earlier Friday, and neither did Kerik in his letter to President George W. Bush. Both merely cited "personal reasons."

Kerik, 49, was named Dec. 3 to replace Tom Ridge as head of the department created after the Sept. 11 attacks to protect the country from future strikes. His nomination had yet to be confirmed by the US Senate.

Kerik's withdrawal as Homeland Security chief-designate came amid reports of potential conflicts of interest between his private sector business activities and his new post.

Since 2002, Kerik has worked with the security consultancy of former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and became a board member of a company, Taser, that makes electric shock devices widely used by police.

"If he is confirmed to the post of homeland security secretary... he will oversee an enormous department that does business with some of the companies that helped make him wealthy," The New York Times said Friday.

Kerik's withdrawal was not the first time a domestic employee lacking the proper working papers has felled a cabinet nominee.

President Bill Clinton's nominee for attorney general, Zoe Baird, was rejected by Congress in 1993 when it emerged that she had employed two illegal Peruvian immigrants in her home.

Bush suffered the same fate in October 2001 when Linda Chavez, his choice for labor secretary, withdrew her name when a scandal emerged over her illegal Guatemalan nanny. *AFP*

US soldier guilty of killing Iraqi, draws 3 years in jail

BAGHDAD—A US soldier was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to killing a severely wounded Iraqi teenager, the military said Saturday.

S/Sgt. Johnny M. Horne Jr., 30, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, also received a reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of wages and a dishonorable discharge.

Horne, attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, based in Fort Riley, Kansas, pleaded guilty to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another soldier to commit unpremeditated murder.

The charges relate to the Aug. 18 killing of a 16-year-old Iraqi male found in a burning truck with severe abdominal wounds sustained during clashes in Baghdad's Sadr City, an impoverished neighborhood that was the scene of fierce fighting between US forces and Shiite rebels loyal to anti-US cleric Moqtada Sadr.

A criminal investigator had said during an earlier hearing that the soldiers decided to kill him to "put him out of his misery."

The military said in a statement that a jury-like panel of seven service members issued the sentence shortly at 11:30 p.m. Friday after about four hours of deliberations.

Horne is among six Fort Riley soldiers charged with killings in recent months—two for slayings in Kansas and four for deaths in Iraq. S/Sgt. Cardenas J. Alban, 29, of Inglewood, Calif., is charged along with Horne in the teenager's killing and is awaiting a court-martial hearing.

Two other soldiers from the same unit this week faced Article 32 hearings—the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing—over a Sadr City killing in August.

An Article 32 hearing was held Thursday for Sgt. Michael P. Williams, 25, of Memphis, Tenn., on charges of premeditated murder, obstruction of justice and making a false official statement. Also charged is Spc. Brent May, 22, of Salem, Ohio, who had a two-day hearing and is awaiting a ruling on whether he will be court-martialed, receive a lesser penalty or be acquitted. *AP*

Indian chief hanged 1858 for soldier's death cleared

TACOMA, Washington—The chief of an American Indian tribe was exonerated by a specially created court, nearly 150 years after he was hanged for the death of a militia soldier in what is now Washington state.

The unanimous verdict by a seven-judge "Historical Court of Justice" panel clearing Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Indian tribe isn't legally binding, but it drew cheers and tears from hundreds of people who gathered at the state history museum to hear the decision.

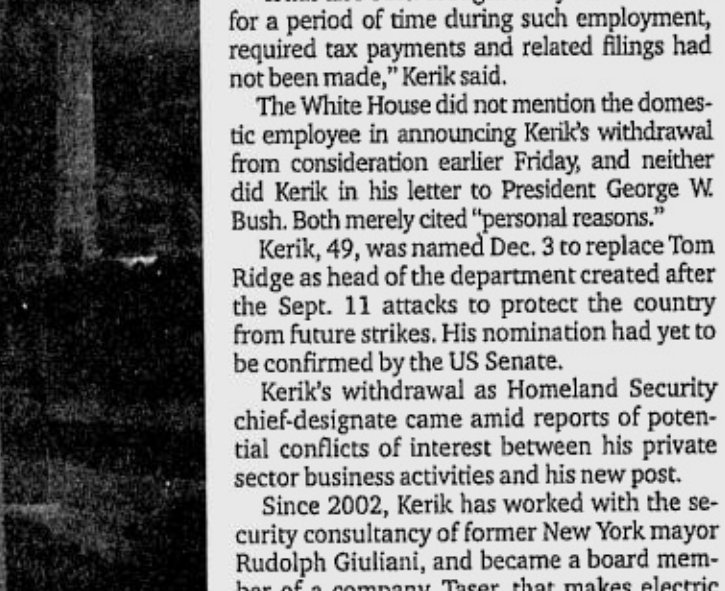
Leschi (pronounced LESH-eye) was hanged in 1858 for killing Col. A. Benton Moses of the territorial militia during the region's Indian war of 1855.

The historical court, led by state Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, ruled that if Leschi did in fact kill Moses, they were lawful combatants in a time of war, so a murder charge was not justified.

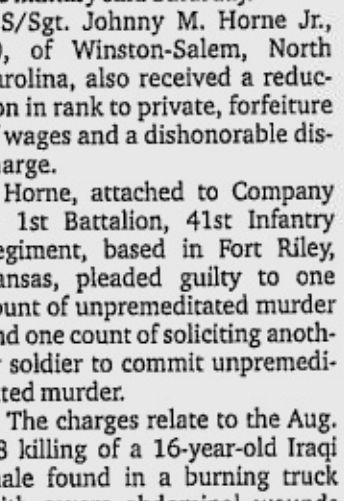
"I'm just happy. This is really about the future," said Cynthia Iyall, a descendant of Leschi's sister and chair of the committee to exonerate Chief Leschi. "This is for all the kids... they need to know who that man was and what truthfully happened to him."

Alexander created the historical court because he didn't think the current state Supreme Court has the power to overturn a decision by its territorial predecessor.

Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, a former prosecutor who helped represent Leschi's descendants before the historical court, agreed that it was important to establish the truth. *AP*



SURVIVOR
Matthew Anthony, 3, poses in his living room, Dec. 10 in St. Louis. Matthew's mother Dianne accidently ran over Matthew when she was backing up her Ford Econoline van in March 2003 but he survived and the family is now pushing for a law that would make back-up cameras mandatory on large vehicles. AP



REELECTED
Ghana President John Kufuor was reelected to serve another four-year term in a country of 20 million people. AP

Nobel laureate Maathai: Heal the Earth, heal ourselves

By Doug Mellgren

OSLO, Norway—To the beat of African drums, Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai received her Nobel Peace Prize, telling the audience of royals, celebrities and diplomats that protecting the world's resources is linked to halting violence.

"Today, we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system," the first African woman and first environmental activist to win the peace prize said Friday.

Maathai, 64, warned that the world remained under attack from disease, deforestation and war.

"We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds, and in the process heal our own, indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder," she told the crowd of dignitaries.

"This will happen if we see the need to revive our sense of belonging to a larger family of life, with which we have shared our evolutionary process," said Maathai, who founded the Green Belt Movement. She receiving the traditional gold medal and diploma that accompanies the 10 million kronor (euro1.1 million, $1.5 million) prize.

Before she took the stage, the usually stodgy ceremony lit up with color and sound as three African dancers and accompanying drummers pounded out a brief piece of African music that echoed off the walls of the large auditorium. Maathai herself wore a brilliant orange traditional dress with a matching scarf in her hair.

In neighboring Sweden, the other Nobel prizes—for medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and economics—were awarded.

Bengt Samuelsson, chair of the board of the Nobel Foundation, addressed the frequently heard criticism that too few women have received the Nobel Prize over the years. While only 31 of the 705 Nobel Prizes handed out since 1901 have gone to women, Samuelsson pointed out that there were three this year.

Afterward, more than 1,300 guests, including the laureates' relatives, Sweden's royal family, government officials, ambassadors, scientists and business leaders, attended the Nobel banquet.

Absent from Stockholm was the literature prize winner, Elfriede Jelinek of Austria, who cited a social phobia. Although she sent a prerecorded video lecture, she did not send any prepared remarks for the banquet.

Presenting her award, Horace Engdahl, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said the writer has "given new currency to a heretical feminine tradition and have expanded the art of literature."

Americans Richard Axel and Linda B. Buck won the medicine prize for their work on the sense of smell. Americans David J. Gross, H. David Politzer and Frank Wilczek won the physics prize for their explanation of the force that binds particles inside the atomic nucleus.

The chemistry prize was awarded to Israelis Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko and American Irwin Rose for their work in discovering a process that lets cells destroy unwanted proteins. *AP*

Suharto family probed over UK arms deal

JAKARTA—Indonesia's powerful antigraft officials Saturday said they were investigating the daughter of ex-president Suharto over claims a British arms firm paid her millions of dollars over a deal to sell tanks.

The inquiry into Siti Hardiyanti "Tutut" Rukmana, Suharto's eldest daughter, is the Corruption Eradication Commission's first into the inner circle of the former dictator, who has escaped trial for massive graft due to ill health.

"We are currently studying the documents. I admit that this is a very interesting case because it has an interesting name, Tutut, in it," said the Commission's deputy head Erry Hardjapamekas.

Rukmana's lawyer Amir Syamsuddin said he was aware of the case, but his client had not consulted him on the matter, according to the Detikcom news portal. The website quoted close friends of Rukmana denying her involvement.

The inquiry follows the publication by the Guardian newspaper of documents allegedly showing that British arms firm Alvis paid $31.9 million in bribes to Rukmana to secure the sale of Scorpion tanks.

Alvis attempted to keep the documents over the £160 million tank deal a secret, but Britain's high court last week ruled that the newspaper could have access to material.

Hardjapamekas said he was inspecting the documents prior to preparing a dossier that could lead to a court hearing. He said the role of the Indonesian army was also being investigated.

Indonesia's anticorruption body, which works independently of the country's often tainted legal system, has been charged with tackling the widespread graft—a key goal of new President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

An investigation into Suharto's daughter is a bold step for the Commission as it will encroach on the former president, whose continued liberty has been condemned by activists who say he must face justice for crimes during his rule.

A Jakarta court in September 2000 ruled that Suharto was mentally and physically unfit to stand trial on charges of embezzling $571 million in state funds.

The Transparency International group has ranked Suharto, who stepped down in 1998 after three decades in power, as the most corrupt leader in recent times, alleging his family amassed up to 35 billion dollars. *AFP*

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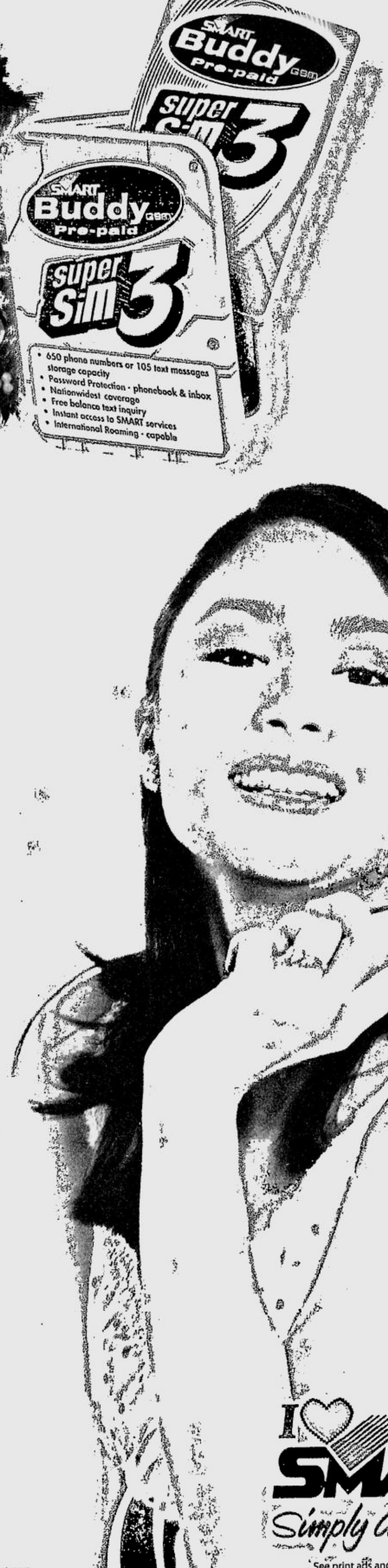

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Rush to judgment

THE CAUTIONARY words of a leading geologist should give all of us pause. Last Thursday, the famous former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology told the INQUIRER that loggers were "not responsible" for the killer landslides that struck Aurora and Quezon.

"Illegal logging was not the main culprit," Raymundo Punongbayan said, after returning from an aerial inspection of Quezon province. Punongbayan had risen to prominence after Mt. Pinatubo erupted in June 1991; he was, among other honors, named the INQUIRER's first Filipino of the Year.

EDITORIALS

"There was a mix of [uprooted] trees—big ones, small ones, definitely not the size that loggers are after." He added that most of the trees had intact root systems—an indication, he said, that the extraordinary rainfall in the two weeks leading to the tragedies caused extraordinary erosion.

Essentially, the trees came barreling down the mountains because the water-saturated soil could not bear the weight. "That's the law of nature," he said.

Punongbayan is known for his contrariness, but it is not for that reason that we should take time to consider what he said. It is because as a nation we seem to have already rushed to judgment. The Arroyo administration immediately blamed illegal loggers. The New People's Army, itself the target of criticism, sought to deflect the attention by casting aspersions on politicians both local and national. And almost from Day One, many of us in the media lamented the emphasis on illegal logging, when abuses in legal logging licenses must have also contributed to the problem.

And yet, if Punongbayan is right, logging may not be the cause at all.

To be sure, the scientist's thesis is hedged; "illegal" logging is not the "main" culprit. And there are enough experts to counter his considered opinion that it was the unusual volume of water that led to the disaster; enough number of other scientists to conclude that logging had in fact caused the mountain soil to be even more vulnerable, that—in a word—there weren't enough trees.

But in the same way that (as lawyers say) hard cases make bad law, easy conclusions make bad policy.

We all owe it to ourselves, then, to slow down and consider all the possible causes.

Back to the forest

WE should also slow down and consider all the possible options. Last Tuesday, for instance, the new anti-illegal logging czar, retired general Victor Corpus, claimed that a total of P361.2 billion was needed to reforest 8.4 million hectares of land.

Even if it is to be spread out over 15 years, as Corpus suggests, the sum is a staggering amount, equivalent to about two-fifths of the national budget. To be sure, his calculations are not entirely suspicion-free; they strike many as a negotiating gambit. But they do raise the essential question: Where will the money to rehabilitate our forests come from?

Corpus posits the people's participation in reforestation to an unprecedented degree. "With enough political will and determination, we can reforest the whole country's denuded forests through self-reliance" and the deployment of thousands of people in the countryside.

But depending on a cash-strapped government, on the one hand, and relying on sometimes-fickle popular support, on the other, may in fact put the entire forest rehabilitation program in jeopardy.

Let us put it this way. Would a total logging ban allow our forests to grow back at the rate we need it to? In his column the other day, lawyer Raul Pangalangan raised a proposal that runs very much against the current.

"The voice of sobriety proposes a selective ban that will enable the long-term cultivation of replenishable tree farms. Indeed, a total ban will hit the real 'village people': subsistence farmers who forage for firewood and the other rudiments of life."

It is possible, therefore, that the solution lies partly with those whom many of us, even in the media, see as the problem: the loggers themselves. Do they see it in their long-term interest to replenish the trees they cut, not simply as a matter of legal compliance but as a guarantee of a profitable future?

Pangalangan's words, and those of the geologist Raymundo Punongbayan, remind all of us that there are no easy, reductionist answers.

The PMA in the dock

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT used to be a highly esteemed institution, with many young men aspiring to be admitted into its halls. Its graduates were the crème de la crème of the Armed Forces to whom the ordinary recruits deferred. Its alumni became superior officers with distinguished and bemedaled achievements. It was indeed the worthy local counterpart of West Point in the United States.

Not any more. Today the Philippine Military Academy is regarded with much suspicion or at least no longer with the past admiration and respect of the public. It has become a can of worms. It is now accused of misdeeds real or imagined that have tarnished its former gleaming record with the dross of dishonor and shame.

Its prestige began to wane with the defection of then Lt. Victor Corpus to the insurgent ranks of the NPA in 1970. He returned to the fold in 1976 and was imprisoned for his apostasy until 1987. Now rehabilitated, he was recently retired from the Armed Forces but is back in a civil office created especially for him.

In 1972, the PMA definitely lost the people's confidence when it cowered to be Ferdinand Marcos' servile ally during his dictatorship. Once the symbol of integrity and courage, it lowered itself as the foremost lackey of the hated commander in chief. To the unbelieving nation, the intimidated PMA was no longer its gallant defender. It had become the instrument of tyranny.

Among the enforcers of martial law was the dreaded team of Col. Rolando Abadilla and his ruthless lieutenants who committed countless violations of human rights in the name of the national security. This included Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Panfilo Lacson, then fresh from the PMA and already prepared to daunt the enemies of the Marcos regime. Just retribution awaited them after their abuses, but not all of them have been punished.

Edsa I saw the rise of another PMA soldier, the adventurous Col. Gringo Honasan, who later led several failed revolts during the Aquino administration that impaired the country's economy. He was undeservedly elected twice to the Senate, where he was paid for doing nothing except what he called "committee work." He is now implicated in the Oakwood mutiny last year but expects to remain scot-free again.

As Joseph Estrada's top policeman, Lacson was charged with several serious crimes that were investigated by the Senate in 2001. The joint report calling for his prosecution was blocked by his minority colleagues and is now deemed expired without action. This PMA graduate is in effect absolved of the serious accusations against him that are not likely to be re-filed. The criminal cases now pending against him are still pending.

Eleven years ago, former AFP chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia was charged with unexplained wealth but was apparently absolved. Now the case has been re-filed, and he is claiming persecution. The people are not buying because they are now chary of cover-ups from the military. Abadia, also from the PMA, ran for the Senate in 2001 but was roundly rejected by the electorate, probably because of that supposed anomaly.

The administrative investigation of Gen. Angelo Reyes' P10-million mansion was discontinued when he resigned as defense secretary but should be revived now that he is back in the Cabinet. There is also the question of his and his wife's frequent trips abroad, which may delay this PMA alumnus' confirmation as interior secretary by the Commission on Appointments. Reyes was one of Estrada's rah-rah boys who belatedly abandoned Erap when it was already safe to do so and was coldly received at Edsa II.

Then there are the revelations of the eye-popping wealth of Gen. Carlos F. Garcia that includes, according to his wife under oath, gratitude money from contractors he has benefited as Armed Forces comptroller. Several properties in his name in the United States have been "frozen" pending investigation of how he acquired the money to purchase them. Even his sons reportedly have dollar accounts in their name although they have no visible sources of income.

Several other officers, also from the PMA, are charged with Garcia for fortunes way above their legitimate income as meager-salaried employees of the Armed Forces. One has been suspended for falsifying his birth documents, and another is being asked to explain the foreign peregrinations of his wife, suspiciously at public expense. The Oakwood mutineers from the PMA are now on trial, but their presumptive leader has not even been arrested despite the strong evidence against him.

And how about the recent valedictorian from the PMA, who was caught in a petty theft in the United States, where he was undergoing special studies upon invitation of that country? That indiscretion has not only wrecked his promising future but also seriously discomfited the Republic of the Philippines and its foremost military institution. The reputation of the PMA has so deteriorated that the people are ready to believe every canard against it which is no longer dismissed as absurd.

The glory days of the Philippine Military Academy are over, and the future looks dim and dolorous. It will take a new generation, and a return to the old virtues that lent it prestige, to restore it to the pride, affection and respect of the Filipino people.

More than words

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a drunk who boarded a bus and found himself seated beside a priest. He took a good look at the priest and asked, "Are you a priest?"

"Yes, my son" was the priest's reply.

"Father, what causes arthritis?"

Thinking that this was a wonderful opportunity to lecture on clean living, the priest said, "My son, you'll get arthritis if you have a loose life, indulge in vices, drinking, smoking, etc., etc. By the way, my son, why are you asking this question about getting arthritis?"

"Well Father, I just read that the Pope has arthritis!" the drunk replied.

* * *

Some of us have the tendency of preaching too much and too soon. But more than words, people expect our integrity and the fruits of our ministry. In today's Gospel (Mt. 11, 2-11), Jesus tells the messengers of John who came to ask if He was the Messiah, "to go back and report to John what you hear and see..." People need not only to hear about goodness and God. They need to see goodness and God.

* * *

Reminds me of a couple planning on what to do on their 25th wedding anniversary. The wife rattled on with her suggestions for the big day. She went on and on excitedly, and then paused to ask her husband if he had any suggestions on how to spend the day. "Maybe, we can have a few moments of quiet?" was the husband's sheepish reply. As we prepare for Christmas, perhaps, we need—more than words—some moments of quiet, just to let it all settle down and sink in.

* * *

Jesus was someone who did not only talk. His words were backed up with concrete evidence of God's power and love. There are people who talk and talk, and they end up doing just that. There are people who really talk good, but still, they are just good talkers. There has been a surplus of words, comments and commentaries on the recent tragedy that befell our country. Okay. Fine. Whatever. I wish though that the financial and material help extended to the typhoon victims were as many and as generous. As you read this column, why don't you stop and go write out a check, send an amount, look into your cabinets for whatever you can donate to our suffering brothers and sisters? Or perhaps spend a few moments of quiet prayer. God asks of you and me to love not only in words, but more so in deeds. As the Word became incarnate on Christmas day, may we make incarnate and concrete God's love especially, but not only, this Christmas.

* * *

A lot has been said about John the Baptist, about his being a prophet and all. But one thing I admire in him is that he was a very focused man. He knew who he was—not the Messiah, but the one who was tasked to prepare the way. He knew he had to encounter many obstacles and opposition, but he carried out his mission anyway. There were many raging issues during his time and day, but he was focused on the vision of the Kingdom of God.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us—like John the Baptist—accept who we are before God. Let us not think of ourselves bigger than who we really are. Despite the hard times, let us not forget to be hopeful and to be helpful. And, amid the many raging issues in our present day and time, let us not forget our vision and mission to live meaningful, beautiful lives and to help make this a better world because we passed by.

* * *

If you are getting upset and worried about so many things, that's simply because you are focused on so many things. Try focusing not on things but on people. Instead of fretting on what you need or what you want, try focusing on God. Instead of focusing on the trimmings that go along with the Christmas rush, try some moments of quiet and again allow yourself to be told by God what it's all about.

* * *

Christmas came early this year for me when we were treated to a free and unplanned concert by the multi-awarded Loboc Children's Choir, compliments of Mayor Leoncio Calipusan, an XVD, two years my junior. In that beautiful, dimly lit Loboc Church, we felt the simple presence of God through the songs of these talented but simple children. Yes, more than a "Merry Christmas," I wish you all a "Mary Christmas." Mary's first Christmas was simple, quiet, so full of hope and so full of love. There weren't many words spoken on that first Christmas. But there was plenty of love. Enough of words. Let us just love.

* * *

More than words, let us show our gratitude to the Lord by being present in the 9-day Misa de Gallo starting this Dec. 16.

* * *

Fr. John Regalado, SVD, our vocation director, is inviting all those in the Bicol region who want to know more about the priestly and religious life to join a "search-in" to be conducted at the high school campus of the Divine Word College in Legazpi, on Dec. 19, 2004. I will also be conducting an Advent Recollection—same date, same place, from 9 a.m. till noon. See you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that more than words, it is love that we need this Christmas. Amen.

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Past forward

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

A FEW days ago, Karen Kelley, press attaché of the US Embassy, hosted a press-roundtable meeting with Ambassador Charles Salmon Jr., Foreign Policy Advisor for the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii. A former political officer in Manila, Salmon later served as deputy chief of mission in Myanmar and New Zealand before his posting as ambassador to Laos. He was foreign policy advisor to the commander in chief, US Pacific Command (CINCPAC) prior to his retirement from the foreign service.

In a quick rundown of various US foreign policy issues, Ambassador Salmon (call me "Charlie") cautioned against expecting any new initiatives from the incoming team at the State Department. Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice, a Russian specialist, has her plate full with the Middle East, North Korea, Iran and, of course, Iraq, and she may not have the time or the inclination to take on more. In our part of the world, the priorities remain the same: China to include Taiwan, Japan and the Korean peninsula, not necessarily in that order. I guess it is safe to assume that we are not on Condi's radar screen. Incidentally, the last time we had a Russian specialist in our midst was in 1957, when Ambassador Charles "Chip" Bohlen was exiled to Manila by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles during the Eisenhower administration. In his memoirs, "Witness to History," Bohlen devotes a chapter to his Philippine assignment, titled "Exile in Manila." He must have really pissed off Dulles to be shunted off to Manila after serving as envoy to the Soviet Union.

Charlie Salmon's talk—which didn't give him much time for lunch—was made a bit more interesting by some juicy tidbits from his days as a political officer in Manila from 1974 to 1977. He mentioned that at one time he met with a high-ranking Marcos Cabinet official who provided him with sensitive information which he passed on to his superiors. He was feeling good about the whole thing and when the same official rang him up a few days later, he thought it was another opportunity for additional material. It turned out that the fellow was calling him for help regarding a visa for his mistress. On another occasion, the embassy was encountering some delay in getting approval for a new envoy to replace outgoing Ambassador William Sullivan. Apparently then First Lady Imelda Marcos was lobbying for Lloyd Hand, chief of protocol during the Lyndon Johnson presidency. She and Mrs. Hand were old friends from the days when LBJ went all the way for Filipino troops to join the Vietnam War effort. Hand never made it to Manila and David Newsome, the ambassador-designate eventually presented his credentials to Malacañang. He left Manila after a brief stay of barely five months and was replaced by Richard Murphy.

Salmon's itinerary included a visit to the Philippine Military Academy for a talk with the cadets. (Some wise guy said it was to brief them on the proper accomplishment of customs formalities whenever they enter the United States.) The PMA should have more contact with the outside world. It's a good experience for the cadets. With the limited library facilities at Fort del Pilar, the next best thing would be personal interaction with the experts.

* * *

For some reason, while checking up on Charles Bohlen, I got interested in the early envoys sent by the United States after July 4, 1946. The first five were all political appointees. The very first one, Ambassador Paul V. McNutt was actually a "*balikbayan*." After serving as governor of Indiana, he was appointed US High Commissioner to the Philippines by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1937 to 1939. A good-looking, capable and ambitious politician, McNutt was called the "Hoosier Hitler" by critics for his bold and strong leadership. Seen as a possible rival of FDR, he was probably exiled to the Philippines to get him out of the way. In June 1946, he returned to the Philippines as US High Commissioner. In the afternoon of July 4, following the Independence rites, he was US ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. McNutt stayed at his post for less than a year.

McNutt was followed by another politician, Emmet O'Neal, a former congressman from Kentucky. He spent even less time in Manila than his predecessor. O'Neal was replaced by Myron Cowen who stayed longer than the combined time of the two fellows who served ahead of him.

The fourth envoy was a World War II naval war hero. Raymond A. Spruance graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1907. In one of history's great naval encounters, he was head of Task Group 16 at the Battle of Midway from which the US Pacific Fleet emerged badly hurt but victorious over Japan's Combined Fleet. He would stay at his post in Manila for more than three years.

Another politician, this time a former Republican senator from Michigan, Homer Ferguson, took over from Spruance. In his book "Portrait of a Cold Warrior," Joseph B. Smith, a top CIA agent who served in the Philippines, had this to say of Ferguson: "The kindest word to describe Ferguson's ambassadorship was that he was unprepared. His idea of relating to a foreign chief executive was to show his warmth by swatting Magsaysay on the seat of his pants after the president delivered his State of the Nation message." This is probably why the next guy they sent was a career foreign service officer. Unfortunately, Albert Nufer died at his post three months after assuming office.

More tragedies in the making?

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT is ironic that while the country grieves for victims of indiscriminate logging, while it blames the loggers and government's failure to control them, there is a sense of satisfaction with the Supreme Court's decision on the Mining Act of 1995. Ironic because this decision, which opens the way to the exploitation of the nation's mineral resources by foreign firms, also opens the way for further disasters.

Mining, especially open-pit mining, has massive environmental and social impacts. Communities, usually indigenous communities in the mountains, are displaced. Massive machines chew up whole mountains, reduce them to mud, and treat the mud with chemicals to bring out the ore. Then arises the problem of disposing of the toxic, chemical-laden mud, the mine tailings.

The Marinduque disaster of 1995 is only one dramatic example of what can go wrong. Boac River was killed by thousands of tons of that mud, and to this day it cannot support life. Moreover, for years Marinduque Mining had been dumping these poisonous tailings into Calancan Bay, sharply reducing the fish catches on which the coastal communities survive, and reportedly causing abnormally high levels of heavy metals in the bloodstreams of children who ate the fish. Marcopper Mining and Placer Dome of Canada, which managed it, have done little or nothing to clean up the mess which their carelessness created. The US Geological Survey has estimated that a cleanup will cost between $60 million and $100 million.

In a strikingly parallel case, Indonesian authorities have decided to initiate a criminal lawsuit against the world's largest gold producer, the Newmont Mining Corp. of Denver, Colorado, USA, for polluting Buyat Bay off Sulawesi Island with mine waste. The decision to initiate the case was taken on the basis of a technical report on pollution in the bay, following reports of illnesses among the villages and the loss of their fishing income. Somewhat amusingly, Newmont attributes the health problems of the people to poor sanitation and nutrition, suggesting that the vaunted benefits of mining take a quite long time in coming to the local communities.

It is interesting to note that the method of tailings disposal used by Newmont—called submarine tailings disposal (STD), and which Placer Dome insisted (unsuccessfully) on using to clean up the Boac River—is effectively forbidden in both in Canada, the home country of Placer Dome, and in the United States.

Catherine Coumans, Ph.D., of Mining Watch Canada, comments on what she calls the overly optimistic predictions of benefits that could be derived from large-scale mining. Citing a series of studies, including one from the World Bank, she notes that "the overwhelming conclusion in a booming current literature on this topic [mining, development, and poverty reduction] shows that for most developing nations, mineral development has not contributed to economic development at the national or local levels..." She goes on to point out that mining tailings, even if impounded, must be given "care and maintenance" in "perpetuity" lest acid mine drainage pollute the environment, and that the clean-up process—after a mine has ceased operating—is extremely expensive. It is estimated that cleaning up the 10,000 abandoned mines in Canada will cost the taxpayers at least $6 billion.

The World Bank, aware of the mounting criticism of its support for mining, initiated a three-year multi-stakeholder process aimed at answering the question: "Can extractive industries projects be compatible with the World Bank Group's goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction?" They conclude that they can "but only if the right conditions are in place." These "right conditions" are grouped under the headings: pro-poor governance, local community participation, environmental concerns, and protection of human rights.

The specifics under each of these headings are daunting, and clearly they will not be readily accepted by the large international mining corporations. The question then is whether Third World governments, and the Philippines in particular, are strong enough to impose these standards on the mining giants, to see that the environment is protected, the rights of indigenous people respected, and that the benefits truly go to the poor.

Experience suggests strongly that they are not. Long before the Boac River disaster, Marinduque Mining succeeded in having two "cease and desist" orders overturned by the President. Now, nine years after the disaster, Placer Dome of Canada has washed its hands of responsibility. Nothing is heard of the criminal case brought against its executives, and they are probably safely out of the country. The Indonesians thought long and hard before filing charges against Newmont Mining, and one official stated frankly that they did not want to frighten away foreign investment. In a parallel case—though not centered on mining—Union Carbide of the United States and its new parent company Dow Chemical refuse to take full responsibility for the Bhopal disaster in India in which a poison gas leak cost 20,000 lives. Moreover, the US government has refused to extradite to India for trial those officials whose carelessness is said to have been responsible for the leak.

Clearly, these firms have clout, particularly in confronting countries which are desperate for foreign investment. And what are the chances that the Philippine government, which has been unable or unwilling to control its own illegal loggers despite the evidence of past disasters, will be able to enforce discipline on giant international mining firms? To this concerned observer, they seem very slim.

Recent generations have ravaged the forests of the Philippines, destroyed its coral reefs, seen millions of tons of precious topsoil washed into the sea in floods. Perhaps the nation should save its last remaining natural resource, its mineral wealth, for future generations and a stronger, more determined, government.

'The Big C'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IS there sex after (the discovery of) cancer? What do you wear when you have not just a bad hair day but a no-hair day? And can music really help in the fight against cancer?

These and other articles on more serious and scientific topics are all in the maiden issue of "The Big C," a magazine "devoted to cancer," founded by a cancer survivor and managed by a core group of individuals "uniquely bound by a common experience dealing intimately with cancer."

As the editorial explains, "The Big C" is a project "of a small group of professionals whose lives as patient, caregiver or medical practitioner have been irrevocably changed by cancer. It represents...the extraordinary experiences the members have encountered on the road to coming to terms with or overcoming the disease. In many respects, the magazine is its members' way of sharing the hard-earned lessons they have learned along the way."

While the magazine may come as a welcome boon to the community of people living with and struggling against all forms of cancer—as well as their families and caregivers and the medical professionals who seek to cure them or alleviate their pain—it sends a disturbing signal, too. For if its editors and marketing people think it is viable enough to survive on both street sales (P120 a copy) and advertising, could we conclude then that they believe it has a large enough market to sustain it? One would think that a magazine devoted to a word that sends shivers of fear down the spine of most folks would not exactly be an easy sell. But is it possible that the number of Filipinos diagnosed with cancer has grown to such an extent that they have become by themselves a market?

* * *

WHATEVER the disturbing implications of its existence, "The Big C" is still quite an informative and upbeat publication, one that is surely proving to be a big help to everyone who must confront the realities of cancer, from knowing the signs and symptoms, to treatment options, to dealing with the emotional fallout of discovery, and yes, even to carrying on, or trying to carry on, with life "as usual," including the very important activity known as sex.

On the cover of the first issue of "The Big C" is Lydia Paredes and her better-known husband Jim, songwriter and performer and a teacher of creativity. An artist who had immersed herself in ceramics for 13 years, Lydia talks to writer Marian C. Martin with frankness, recounting the harrowing details of her struggle with cancer, particularly the pain and physical toll of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. This difficult period in her and Jim's lives could have been made even harder with news of the pregnancy of one of their daughters. But, Lydia says, she chose to accept the news of their grandchild's coming as a goad to get well so she could experience the little girl's birth, which came soon after her treatment ended.

Reflects Lydia: "I guess this is God's way of telling me not to focus on my sickness because there is this life coming. My focus was not on myself but on (my daughter) and making sure her pregnancy was okay. This came as a blessing for me. This baby is the reason I tried to be strong."

Find a reason outside of yourself for living. Perhaps that is one lesson everyone living with cancer, or who faces the prospect of it, should learn.

* * *

ASIDE FROM THE copy of "The Big C," I also found two books in my office pigeonhole. One is "Remembering NVM," edited by Jose Dalisay Jr., which came with a lovely note from NVM's widow Narita.

The book, published by the UP Press, contains articles, essays and memoirs written on the late National Artist for Literature, most of them upon or shortly after his death. I guess one reason Narita sent me a copy is that a short piece bearing my byline is contained in the book, though I am somewhat embarrassed that it was even deemed worthy of inclusion. One reason may be is that it had a brief mention of one aspect of NVM's life that was rarely studied—that of his being a loving husband and worthy family man, who was in fact quite an active member of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) for decades.

I have yet to read the book in full, but I am looking forward to curling up with it and treating myself to a lengthy read. The critical essays, reviews, reminiscences and reflections are written by some of the country's best writers, many of whom came under NVM's tutelage. A great writer deserves no better tribute than this.

* * *

THE SECOND book is "Sarabihon: A Journal of Sorsogon Studies," sent to me by former INQUIRER chair, distant relative and fellow Sorsoganon Eggie Duran Apostol. If Narita Gonzalez sent me a copy of "Remembering NVM" because I had a (too) short piece on it, Tita Eggie sent me the journal because I was mentioned in it, on Page 91, when I made it to the honored list of people Tita Eggie named in her words of appreciation upon receiving the "Gawad Plaridel" earlier this year.

But there are rewards that come even to those who just leaf through a book to look for their names. Aside from the article on Tita Eggie's award and her response, this issue of "Sarabihon" also contains scholarly works on Sorsoganon culture, history and geography, as well as poems and essays.

Most enjoyable is the memoir "Growing Up in a Remembered Town" by Azucena Grajo Uranza, an award-winning novelist who grew up in Sorsogon but left to live and work in Manila. Through her essay, Uranza manages to recreate a Sorsogon City that even I, who have been in my father's hometown just twice in my life, could feel some nostalgia for.

Sadly, many of the landmarks in the Sorsogon that Uranza remembers have either disappeared or been degraded. But this makes her memoir all the more precious and significant.

The Arroyo regime's nightmare

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NEVER before has this conflict become as obvious as it has today—the clash between the interests of the government's creditors and the interests of its own citizens. The 2005 proposed national budget says it all. Of the P907.8 billion total budget for next year, the biggest chunk of P301.7 billion (33 percent) will go to interest payments. That is more than the P289.2 billion total salary bill for the country's 1.4 million government personnel.

Principal amortization of the national debt is another matter. For 2005, the amount needed is P445 billion, or almost half of the budget. Mercifully, it's not part of the budget because the needed funds will be borrowed; otherwise total debt payments would take up 82 percent of the nation's budget. Of the remaining amount, P176.8 billion will go to local government units, P67.8 billion is set aside for maintenance and other operating expenses, and the princely sum of P72.1 billion is allotted to capital outlay.

This is the budget; where the money will come from is not yet certain at this point. Not one new tax measure aimed at raising additional revenue has been signed into law. Next year looms as another deficit year, and additional borrowings are inevitable. Our hope is that the interest on new borrowings will not be much higher than what is charged our more stable neighbors. This is the reason for the frantic efforts to persuade credit rating firms—like Moody's Investor Service, Fitch Ratings, and Standard & Poor's—not to downgrade the nation's credit standing.

To assure the creditors that the government would be able to pay all its obligations, President Macapagal-Arroyo affirmed the seriousness of the fiscal crisis in August and forthwith announced new tax measures. But to reassure the citizens that the burden will not be all that heavy, she declared in November that the crisis has passed. This is the desperate balancing act of a financially strapped government that is struggling to survive politically.

The conflict would not have arisen if the government had not been so dependent on borrowings. Moreover, it would not have become serious if people believe that the proceeds from all past debts had been properly used. The issue on both counts is the competence and integrity of the nation's leaders.

Independent economists have said that the country cannot expect to grow itself out of this debt hole. The hole has to be plugged first of all. We either pay up or we ask for debt relief. A request for debt relief is a confession of failure that signals danger all around. The only other option is to increase our ability to pay our debts. We have to stop the suicidal habit of borrowing just to finance interest payments. This means cutting costs and raising revenues, both of which are bound to hit the ordinary citizen in the form of reduced social services, higher utility costs, and higher taxes. How a regime that is still trying to legitimize its rule will allocate this pain is going to be a political nightmare.

Even as the government is trying to avoid the ripening of the fiscal crisis into an economic crisis, it is also worried that the clash of constituencies could develop into a full-blown class conflict. At this point, there is no way blood can be further squeezed from an impoverished population that is already reeling from the effects of joblessness, high prices, and natural calamities. The poor are not exactly in awe of the President or of the regime she represents. The middle classes have little flexibility left. They are also the most resentful of the costs of bad government.

It is not surprising that President Arroyo is unable to persuade her allies in Congress to pass the new tax measures and give up their pork barrel. They are answerable to their own constituencies as well as to their political patrons. But not a few are also convinced that the answer to the budget deficit is better tax collection rather than the imposition of new taxes. Rep. Herminio G. Teves, senior vice-chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, has been a sensible voice in this debate.

There is a huge gap, he says, between potential tax collection and actual taxes paid. The figures Teves cites are astounding. The National Statistics Office shows a Philippine population of about 13 million families. Four million of these live below the poverty line, five million have no taxable income, and only four million have taxable income from which roughly P180 billion in taxes can be collected. The Bureau of Internal Revenue records paint a different picture. Instead of four million families with taxable income, less than 700,000 families actually paid their income tax in 2003. Of the P76.7 billion yield in income taxes, 87.8 percent was paid by workers and employees through automatically withheld taxes!

The situation in the corporate sector is worse. A total of 451,309 corporations are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but only 113,145 firms have filed their corporate income tax, and of these only 10,833 actually paid taxes. The total yield from the corporations is only P100.8 billion.

Teves admonishes the well-off to pay their tax obligations in full. He argues for full transparency in tax payments so that the public may know if the lifestyle a person keeps is consistent with the taxes he pays. It all comes back to good governance and responsible citizenship. New taxes are a shortcut solution to what is basically a systemic problem. They promise not more revenue but only more evasion.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

THEY SAID

Economic factor

"They always say it's corruption, but population growth is a more important factor in explaining the slow economic growth of the Philippines."
—Economist Arsenio Balisacan

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Can we save the Sierra Madre?

WE reap what we sow. The death and destruction in Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija brought about by flooding and landslides were staggering. More than 1,000 people dead and missing, and billions of pesos worth of property, infrastructure and crops destroyed.

The destruction, however, did not come as a surprise considering the volume of logs and trees washed down by floodwaters from the Sierra Madre, a mountain range that straddles 10 provinces in Luzon.

The sight of huge logs and flotsam stretched for more than a kilometer at the mouth of a bay in Real, one of the most devastated towns in Quezon, illustrates the extent of logging in the mountains of Quezon and Aurora.

The rampant cutting of trees was blamed on licensed logging companies, carabao loggers and the communist-led New People's Army, which collects "revolutionary taxes" from logging firms.

Logging permits have been issued to 28 companies, groups and individuals in the three provinces, covering hundreds of thousands of hectares.

The government is partly to blame for the disaster because it allowed logging by licensed firms and failed to curb the illegal cutting of trees. Poverty is another culprit. With no other means of livelihood, the poor cut trees in the Sierra Madre although on a scale much smaller than that of the logging firms.

A massive reforestation, a log ban, alternative livelihoods for upland dwellers, and respect for the Sierra Madre are a must to prevent another disaster. We reap what we sow.

Wrestling with Christmas in the devastation of Infanta

By Michael M. Alba

On Sept. 4, our group went on a pilgrimage to Infanta and to surprise a dear friend, who had marked her birthday the day before. Billeted in a compound of beach houses owned by the family of our hosts, we were treated to sumptuous feasts of *paco* (fiddlehead fern) salad, steamed crab, grilled *tulingan* (tuna) and *tinumok* (shrimp and ground pork simmered in coconut milk).

In heat-shimmering weather, we wandered about the Cathedral of the Infant Jesus and St. Mark the Evangelist—wondered about the glass-encased Santo Entierro at the base of the altar, incongruous in a church named after the Santo Niño—and drove through the thick fog of dust kicked up by vehicular traffic on the still-to-be-paved road to Dinahican Port (which had a special significance for our group).

Idyllic

By the gathering dusk, we sang vespers with the nuns in the Carmelite Monastery and briefly visited the bishop's residence, staying awhile in the prayer room and looking around his excellency's office.

Early the next morning, in clean, clear light, we posed for pictures by the beach against a pale blue sky and the slow, undulating waves of the Philippine Sea.

I came away from that excursion with an impression of Infanta as an idyllic place, hallowed ground even, but which, by virtue of its poverty, was kept secret and hidden, in accord with the contemplative vocation of the Carmelites, who had been given charge of the Prelature in the 1950s.

Ten feet of water

On Monday two weeks ago came the following text message from our host: "Please pray for the people of Infanta. Last night's flash flood submerged the town in ten feet of water. My kids [two girls barely in their teens and a four-year old boy] are safe, but had a close call. They had to stay on the roof of our house for 14 hours."

The friend whose birthday we celebrated, I learned later, also had a narrow escape. Trapped in her house in four feet of mud, unable to open the front and back doors, she and her housemates had to break the windowpanes to get to higher ground.

Alas, many others were not so lucky. Estimates put a thousand people dead or missing. Bodies were strewn everywhere, people had to pick their way through the mud to avoid stepping on the dead; corpses had to be buried hurriedly in mass graves to stop the stench and prevent the spread of disease.

Self-limited power

The proximate cause of the devastation: the denudation of the forest brought forcibly home by aerial photos of logs everywhere, which had skewered houses, rammed bridges, and knocked over people into drowning.

Trying to make sense of the carnage and destruction, I could dwell only on the following passages from Rev. Dr. Polkinghorne's "Belief in God in an Age of Science" (Yale University Press, 1999): "[R]ecent theological thought ... acknowledge[s] that ... God has self-limited divine power ... [to allow the created world] truly to be itself. The gift of Love must be the gift of freedom, the gift of a degree of letting-be, and this can be expected to be true of all creatures to the extent that is appropriate to their proper character.

It is in the nature of dense snowfields that they will sometimes slip with the destructive force of an avalanche. It is the nature of lions that they will seek their prey. It is the nature of cells that they will mutate, sometimes producing new forms of life, sometimes grievous disabilities, sometimes cancers. It is the nature of humankind that sometimes people will act with selfless generosity but sometimes with murderous selfishness. That these things are so is not gratuitous or due to divine oversight or indifference. They are the necessary cost of a creation given by its Creator the freedom to be itself."

But what happened in Infanta and elsewhere was not just "nature becoming." It was the Sierra Madre exacting vengeance for the rape of its tree cover. And such a toll it has taken that now the wailing and the howling—of the spirits of those whose lives were abruptly and so violently ended, of the suddenly orphaned children and widowed spouses, of the lonely, the starving, and the maimed—echo in the halls of Heaven.

Collective sin

For our collective sin—in irresponsible stewardship of nature and the environment—our brethren in Quezon have dearly paid. But I dare say some have sinned more grievously than others and bear a greater responsibility for the deaths and destruction: those who engaged in the purchase and sale of illegally cut logs and their derivative products, the government bureaucrats, military men, and rebels who sanctioned the illegal-logging activities in exchange for bribes or "taxes," the government analysts, legislators, and executives who espoused a policy of over-logging, and, worst of all, the illegal loggers (including those with permits but exceeded their bounds).

In days to come, the immediate work will have to focus on relief operations to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, prevent disease outbreaks, and stem the tide of casualties from rising further. Soon after, the rehabilitation of Quezon province and other affected areas will have to be undertaken, which will have to include the adoption of stopgap measures to prevent further soil erosion and degradation, e.g., by planting the hillsides with Vertiver [grass] and peanuts with a coconut-fiber base. (I am told that the widespread practice of uprooting the stumps of cut trees, which were then used by furniture-makers, made the soil less compact and aggravated the mud flow.)

Redesign DENR powers

Over the medium term, there will have to be a concerted effort at reengineering the economies of the Sierra Madre provinces so that incomes will be less dependent on logging and related activities. New industries will need to be developed; people will need to be trained for new livelihoods and occupations.

In addition, measures to prevent similar disasters from happening will need to be implemented. Foremost among these are a comprehensive policy for the sustainable management of the Sierra Madre ecosystem and redesigned powers for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to make the agency less vulnerable to regulatory capture (the technical term economists use to describe a situation in which the regulator acts in the interests of the regulated, in this case the logging firms, rather than for the welfare of the public).

NGOs, media

In the new regulatory regime, greater roles will certainly have to be given to nongovernmental organizations and mass media in the permit-granting and renewal processes and in the monitoring of logging operations.

In the meantime, only a blanket suspension of all logging activities will be tolerated by the Filipino people, and woe to the government if it dares defy this. Indeed, a quietly angry public is vigilantly waiting for government action on the parties that have caused the devastation.

What of Christmas now? In the Berlin Museum is an unusual painting of the Nativity by Albrecht Altdorfer (1480-1538): It is night and dark, even though the moon shines full. The Holy Family has taken shelter in what is left of a house falling to pieces.

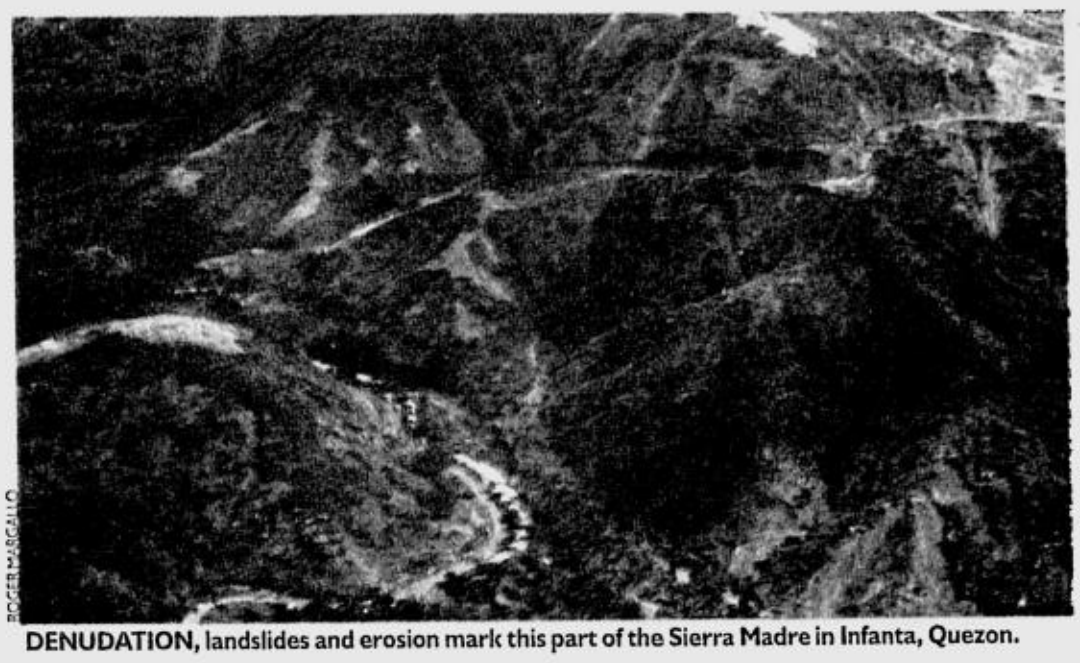
Altdorfer Nativity

Of this painting, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran clergyman and theologian who was later hanged for his involvement in the failed assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler, wrote from prison on the first Sunday of Advent in 1943, "The Altdorfer Nativity, which portrays the Holy Family at the manger amidst the ruins of a dilapidated house—whatever made him do that, 400 years ago, against all tradition?—is especially on my mind these days. Perhaps Altdorfer meant to tell us, 'Christmas can, and should be celebrated in this way too.' In any event that's what he does tell us."

In his book, "And They Shall Name Him Emmanuel" (Claretian Publications, 1999), Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., writes that in the face of so much suffering and evil in the world, God's answer is Christmas. But the answer is not an explanation, it is a presence: Emmanuel, God-with-us, always and everywhere, in the high points of life, but also in the depths of our pain.

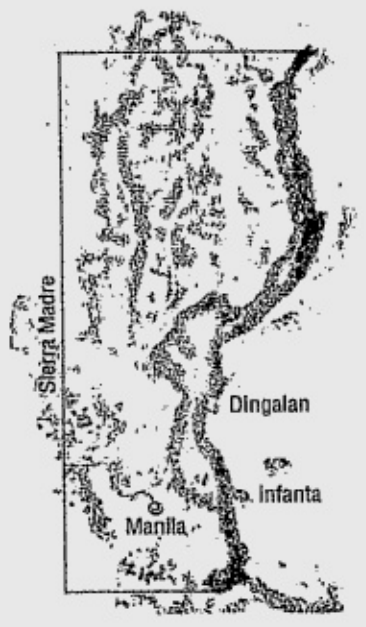
God is in Infanta—with those who are hungry, with those who are homeless, with those who have lost their loved ones, with those who have been mutilated. He feels their pain. He bears their grief. He comes to them this Christmas.

(Alba is the dean of the College of Business and Economics, De la Salle University, Manila.)



ROGER MARGALLO

DENUDATION, landslides and erosion mark this part of the Sierra Madre in Infanta, Quezon.



Sierra at a glance

The Sierra Madre, located at the eastern part of Luzon, is the ***longest mountain*** range in the country.

The mountain range is the backbone of Luzon and is shared by ***10 provinces***: Laguna, Rizal and Quezon in the south; Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan in Central Luzon; and Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Cagayan in the north.

These mountains provide people with the bounty of its foods, feeds, water, fodder and fuel. These areas are blessed with the ***rich biodiversity*** in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park in Isabela and the Mts. San Cristobal and Banahaw protected landscape in the South, including the caves of ***Biak na Bato*** in Bulacan.

Its watershed provides water to big ***dams*** such as those in Magat, Casecnan, Pantabangan, Angat, La Mesa and Caliraya-Botocan, which are important providers of water and power in Luzon.

It is also important to note that these areas also serve as the watershed of Pasig River, Laguna de Bay (one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world), central plain of Luzon and the southern part of Cagayan Valley.

The Sierra Madre also has a place in history with the last stand of ***Gregorio del Pilar*** in Tirad Pass, capture of ***Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo*** in Palanan, and resistance of ***Hermano Pule*** in Banahaw. Even the ***New People's Army*** is taking refuge in the whole stretch of the mountain range. *Virgilio T. Villancio*

INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Reforesting our mountains a must

By Virgilio T. Villancio

It is sad to say that despite the economic, political and environmental importance of Sierra Madre, the government and its people pay little respect or fail to return the favor that the blessing of its richness provides.

It is unfortunate that disasters have to happen so that our attention can be called by nature itself.

What happened in the provinces along the Sierra Madre had occurred in similar areas of the country. A study by Dr. Steve Godilano after the Southern Leyte disaster last December identified about 800,000 hectares of land that are considered "hot spots" for disaster if the same amount of rain that fell on Southern Leyte will fall on them. This was proven by the recent disaster in Quezon and Aurora. Dr. Godilano also identified Laguna as a "hot spot."

Poverty

The causes of deforestation of our mountains and sloping lands are beyond logging, which are frequently blamed on loggers. The limited opportunities in the lowlands for almost 25 million Filipinos that migrated to the uplands and the poverty in the uplands also did it. With no other source of income, timber poachers become the agents of deforestation for unscrupulous timber traders who finance them.

Forests in Sierra Madre and other mountains (Mt. Apo, Mt. Kitanglad, Mt. Matutum, Palawan, Mt. Halcon, Mt. Cadig, Mt. Labo, Isarog, Bulusan, Caraballo, Cordillera, Samar, Leyte, and many more) can regenerate if left alone and are not converted into lands for intensive agriculture. Without tenurial security, upland farmers plant short duration annual crops rather than permanent crops. Thus, lands are left without permanent vegetation cover. Continued migration and cultivation of the sloping lands without due regard to soil and water conservation resulted in resource degradation and lower productivity and low income, repeating the cycle of poverty in the uplands.

Two fronts

The situation is not hopeless. We can do something to avert the situation. Stakeholders can work together and restore Sierra Madre and other mountains on two fronts: reforestation in the public lands and critical watersheds, and agroforestation in the private lands.

Besides the employment, productivity and income implication, the restoration of the watershed function of the Sierra Madre other mountains will enhance its capacity to provide the basic amenities such as water for household, agriculture, industry and power generation.

Biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and environmental enhancement will also be fostered. Floods, landslides and other associated hazards will be reduced if not prevented.

I hope that the recent concerns shown by policy makers will not wane until the protection of Sierra Madre and other mountains is addressed. The exploitation of our forests and our natural resources will continue despite a complete log ban that may be imposed. Our regulatory machinery is not capable of implementing the ban in the same manner that stiff penalties do not stop the proliferation of illegal drugs.

In some sense, this may result in more illegal logging as the timber prices may rise, thus, making it worth the risk of getting caught. However, I agree with the bill for selective log ban in which cutting of trees will be prohibited in the protected areas and forest reserves but harvesting will be allowed in forest plantations and agroforestry areas.

Agroforestry promotes the planting of trees with diversified agricultural crops. It improves productivity and reduces costs since some costs are shared by several crops. It also cuts down the risk because there will be multiple sources of products and income. With agroforestry, the cost of timber produced on-farm will be cheaper, making the cost of logging from the natural stands higher.

Planting trees on farm particularly in about three million hectares of coconut areas located in the sloping lands, can provide a large chunk of timber and wood fuel supply that the country needs. Coco lumber now supplies a large share of the market otherwise supplied by conventional timber products. About 86 percent of the biomass fuel (such as charcoal, wood fuel, and farm by-products) used in the country come from agricultural lands.

Higher tax on idle land

Idle lands in the sloping lands held for speculative purposes can be taxed higher to encourage owners to use them. A joint venture arrangement between the landowner and the agroforestry developer can be made so that the agrarian reform law is not violated. It is possible for a mechanism to be developed in which the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System guarantee their members' medium and long-term loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines to develop their farms into agroforestry that combines trees and crops.

Agroforestry with fruit trees and other perennial crops have the potential of providing someone with income higher than the pension he receives after retirement.

Imposing a total log ban will not solve deforestation but agroforestation will help a lot in reducing the pressure on our forest residuals and remaining natural stands as it will promote regeneration. Legislators should instead push for the development of a National Agroforestation Program that will provide adequate support for the planting of trees (timber, wood fuel, fruits and other multipurpose trees) on farm, marginal pasture lands, *laharladen* areas, grasslands and other community-based forest management areas.

The support system may include making those areas more accessible than existing forest stands, facilitating registration and provision of harvesting and transport permits, long-term financial support mechanism, as well as improving production, conversion, distribution and utilization technologies.

Two million hectares converted into agroforestry in six years would generate employment for two million Filipinos and could increase their productivity and income. We can turn our farmlands into agroforests while the Sierra Madre and other mountains regenerate with a little help from us.

(Villancio is the manager of the Land Grant Management Office at UP Los Baños in College, Laguna. He is a former director of the Institute of Agroforestry, UPLB.)

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Muñoz city makes RP's biggest rice cake

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—About 3,000 women here put their culinary skills to work and made the biggest and heaviest rice cake in the country, if not in the world.

"We present to you the Biko ng Mundo (rice cake of the world)," said Mayor Nestor Alvarez during the public presentation of the 2.54-ton rice cake here on Thursday.

Biko is a glutinous rice-based cake cooked in coconut milk and brown sugar stirred to a sticky consistency. It is topped with pre-cooked coconut nuggets called latik.

Alvarez said 1,200 kilograms, or about 24 bags, of *malagkit* (glutinous rice), 960 kg of brown sugar and 2,600 pieces of coconuts were used to make the biko.

Local officials said the rice cake was worth P127,000.

While Muñoz was trying to surpass the existing record in the category of rice cake in the Guinness Book of World Records, local officials said they did not officially enter the rice cake to the record books.

Alvarez said the city government would enter the rice cake into the official world record in future celebrations and invite Guinness representatives to document it.

The largest rice cake in terms of weight recorded by the Guinness is 2.019 tons. Japan holds that record. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Malaysian barge with 600 logs runs aground off Palawan area

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Malaysian barge containing 600 pieces of logs (around 190,800 board feet) ran aground off Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan.

The logs, according to Virgilio Tiongson, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office head, were of still unidentified mixed species.

But his field officer who inspected the barge told him that there were some apitong and nato species.

Capt. Arthur Olavario, Coast Guard district commander, said that the size of the logs were 30 inches in diameter and 20 meters long.

These are slightly smaller than the diameter of a dam, said Tiongson.

He added that the Philippine standard is only 10 meters long but there are old growth trees in the Philippines that are of the same size.

Tiongson revealed this information to determine whether the logs really came from Malaysia and not the Philippines.

They are still waiting for the full inventory of the logs and the documents to be presented so they could determine the origin of the logs.

Tiongson said he has two theories on this. One, the logs might have come from Palawan and second, the logs were really from Malaysia but the legality of their transport should also be investigated.

He added that if there were other species of the dipterocarp family like lauan, it was not from Palawan because there is only one dipterocarp species in Palawan.

Apitong and nato, he said, can both be found in Palawan and Malaysia.

According to the Philippine Coast Guard report, the barge Malindo II was on its way to China from Malaysia when it ran aground at about .05 nautical miles west off Barangay Cheey, Busuanga.

The barge was towed by a tugboat named Malindo I.

The tugboat was skippered by Capt. Jaka Darmanta, with eight Indonesian and one Malaysian crew members.

Olavario said that the Malindo I and Malindo II left Malaysia on Nov. 25.

On Nov. 29, the barge had a leak. On Dec. 3, it sent a distress call to its Malaysia office and the latter sent a rescue tugboat Osmaru I.

EVIDENCE of the destruction wrought by typhoon and forest destruction is all over Sitio Tignoan in Real, Quezon. REM ZAMORA/PDI PHOTO

Coast Guard personnel, DENR and Philippine National Police and the barangay chairman of Cheey inspected the barge.

The personnel of the barge were transferring the logs using a crane in another barge. Only about 10 percent of the logs were transferred because of the strong winds.

Olavario said when they asked for documents, Joseph Abella, a Filipino liaison officer of the Malaysian company operating the barge, presented xeroxed copies.

Abella immediately went to the site when the barge ran aground.

The Coast Guard is still waiting for the authenticated documents before the barge could leave Philippine territory although there were no charges filed. Olavario said it might be using the route as part of the innocent passage clause under the United Nations Convention on the Law on the Seas. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hagedorns light up Xmas tree as 'hope for everyone' in city

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The lighting of this city's 80-foot Christmas tree was probably the most memorable for the wife of Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Mrs. Ellen Hagedorn, who is undergoing chemotherapy to fight cancer.

She led the lighting of the tree at the Mendoza Park on Dec. 4 in line with the city's week-long celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The occasion was made more memorable when Puerto's first couple sang a Christmas song to the delight of the residents, employees and officials of the city government who witnessed the event.

Representatives of different sectors and religious organizations were also present.

Mrs. Hagedorn, who has been heading Oplan Linis, the city's clean and green project, for the past 12 years, was in her jovial self during the ceremony.

PALAWAN'S first couple, Mayor Edward Hagedorn and his wife Ellen, sing carols after lighting a Christmas tree that the mayor said "gave hope to everyone," including Ellen who's battling cancer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

She didn't look like someone who is battling cancer. She was happy greeting the crowd and the familiar faces she has been with since her childhood in Puerto Princesa City.

A colorful fireworks display followed after the lighting ceremony.

The lighting ceremony was supposed to be scheduled on Dec. 1 but days before its completion, the foundation of the P400,000 Christmas tree gave in due to strong December wind.

Mayor Hagedorn said he was happy that the giant Christmas tree was finally completed because he thought this won't be finished during the celebration.

"It gave hope to everyone," he said.

Two other giant Christmas trees were lit last Dec. 1 in front of the provincial capitol and the Capitol Park Square. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA owns up raid in Olongapo City

OLONGAPO CITY—The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the raid on a police checkpoint in Barangay Barretto here on Thursday night that killed three policemen and a security guard.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the NPA's Josepino Corpuz Command operating in Central Luzon said the raid signaled its campaign for "intensified tactical offensives" following the murder of Marcelino Beltran, chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Tarlak (AMT), on Wednesday night.

Senior Supt. Orlando Maddela Jr., Olongapo police director, identified the fatalities as Insp. Ernesto Cruz, deputy precinct commander of police station 6 here; SPO2 Bologto Ramos and SPO1 Emerson Valdez, also of precinct 6; and Felix Tacbas, a security guard.

A policeman, identified as SPO1 Benjamin Quintino, was wounded and was taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital here.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. pacified residents and assured them the attack was an isolated case. He said he has already ordered the police to step up security in the entire city.

Gordon condemned the attack and vowed to find the suspects until "justice is served."

"We should never allow such thing to happen again. It is clear that there are lawless elements trying to sow terror in our city," he said.

The slain policemen were honored on Friday night at the Olongapo City Hall. Local officials assured the victims' families that they would extend financial assistance and scholarship grants for their children.

"The three policemen who were killed while on duty have served the city with integrity and their attackers only wanted to disrupt our peaceful community," Gordon said.

A motorcade around the city was held on Saturday morning to honor the slain policemen.

Maddela ordered more blockades set up and mobile patrol units in nearby provinces to find the attackers.

In its statement, the NPA blamed Army soldiers for the death of Beltran and accused the government of being responsible for his "merciless murder."

Describing Beltran as the "eighth martyr of Hacienda Luisita," the NPA vowed that the government's intensified use of "state terrorism" against unarmed civilians "will not go unpunished."

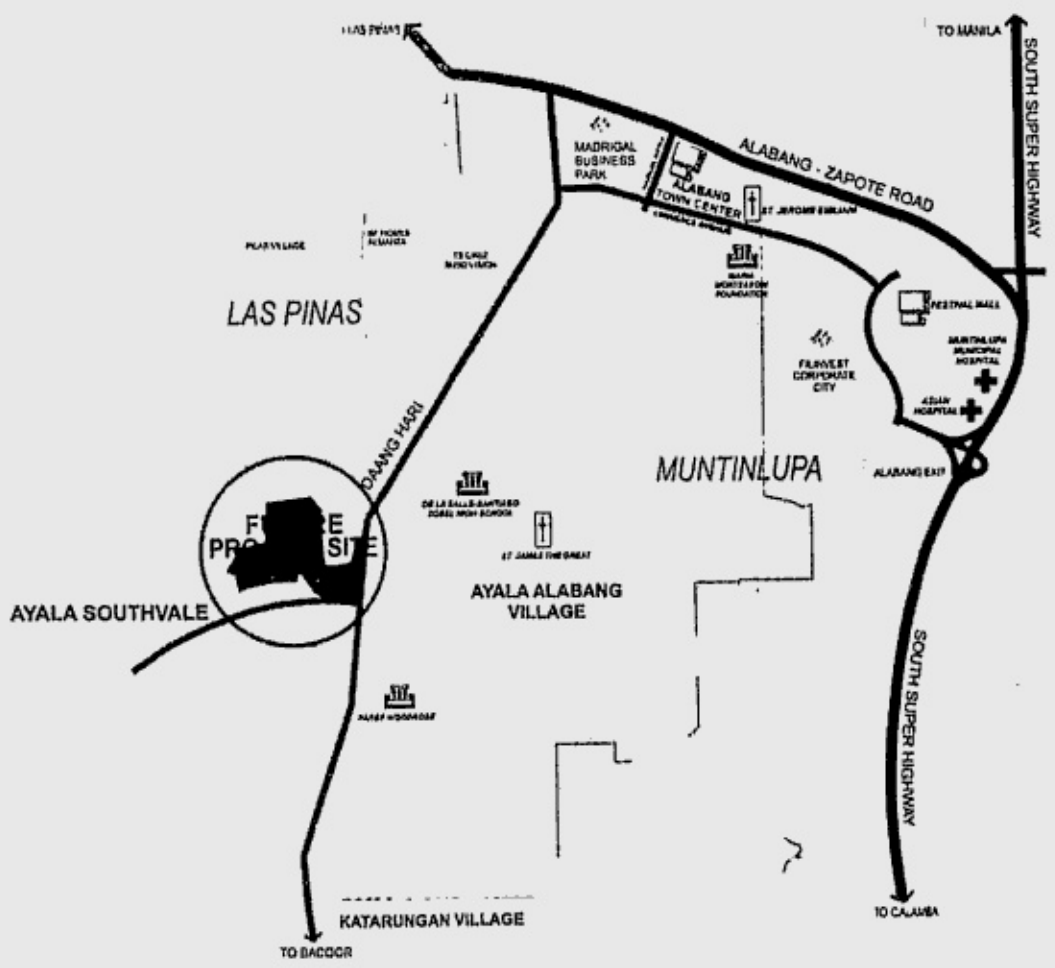
Beltran, also vice chair of the party-list group Anakpawis in Tarlac, was a key witness in the ongoing Senate and House of Representatives inquiry into the Nov. 16 violent dispersal of striking workers in Hacienda Luisita. At least seven were killed and more than 100 others were hurt in that dispersal.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said an investigation is now being undertaken to look into allegations that a soldier shot and killed Beltran.

Monta said Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Nolcom commander, has ordered Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th Infantry Division commander, and 703rd Infantry Brigade commander Pedro Curva to conduct an investigation into the possible involvement of their soldiers in the killing. *Jo Clemente, Allan Macatuno and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Eagerly-Awaited Phase of Ayala Southvale Ready by 2005

In 2005, Ayala Land Inc. will launch the new phase of Ayala Southvale Village. Compared to previous larger developments like Ayala Alabang, which has an area of 600 hectares, the new 20-hectare subdivision within Ayala Southvale is masterplanned to be a residential subdivision with lots for single-detached houses, with direct access through Daang-Hari Road.



This next phase of Ayala Southvale Village is envisioned by the developer to be have a comfortable lifestyle setting that will encourage and nurture friendly relationships among residents. Families will enjoy all these while having the advantages of living near well-regarded schools as DLS-Zobel, Paref Woodrose and Rosemont School, reputable institutions including the Asian Hospital, and retail and business centers like the Alabang Town Center and the Ayala Alabang Commercial Center.

Homebuyers can choose lot sizes from 318 sqm to 733 sqm, with most lots ranging from 450 sqm to 550 sqm. Only 234 lots will be sold.

For inquiries about Ayala Land, Inc. properties, please call **841-5547** or email **asvinquiry@ayalaland.com.ph**.

Employees pool funds for typhoon victims

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 115 employees of the Department of Land Reform in Central Luzon are living the spirit of Christmas.

They decided to cancel their Christmas party and give the money instead to 15 of their colleagues whose houses were either buried or damaged by the landslides or swamped by floods, DLR employee Vines Amameda said.

Narciso Nieto, DLR regional director, said it was an "act of solidarity and concern" for their fellow employees in Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

The DLR also raised P2 million from the German Embassy. The money was used to buy groceries that the employees began packing on Saturday at the DLR regional office here.

The relief goods will be distributed on Monday to farmers in agrarian reform communities affected by the landslides and floods, Nieto said.

Earlier, the Baguio City council and the Nueva Ecija provincial government cancelled their respective Christmas parties to divert their budget to typhoon-affected areas in Aurora and Quezon.

Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III said provincial officials agreed to cancel their Christmas party and program on Dec. 16 in deference to the recent calamity.

Joson said they would instead donate the money to typhoon victims in the province. He said he hoped the local governments in Nueva Ecija would also cancel their parties and donate the amounts saved to calamity victims. *Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

NATIVE TREE
A Christmas tree made of earthenware rises in Vigan City as city officials prepare for the holidays trying to maintain a native theme. Vigan is known for its colonial houses and cobbled streets, among other attractions.

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Trading center drops cityhood bid over wastes

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Sometimes, it doesn't pay to be an economic power.

The country's vegetable trading center in northern Luzon has been overwhelmed by an unusual increase in garbage with the entry of shopping malls and fast food chains.

Mayor Nestor Fongwan said his town only collected 15 tons of garbage each day in 1999. Six years later, the town has been hauling off 70 tons of garbage daily.

He said these problems accompanying urbanization have discouraged La Trinidad from seeking its conversion into a city like neighboring Baguio.

"I learned a lot from Baguio," Fongwan told reporters on Tuesday, adding that garbage has been a "good barometer" for measuring urban decay.

He said the Baguio government once tried to buy a La Trinidad property for its own landfill because its dump has become uneconomical and unmanageable.

Baguio Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia, president of the Baguio Regreening Movement, has proposed to develop six mini-composting plants in major Baguio villages to reduce the volume of wastes that is thrown in the city's dump.

La Trinidad hosts the region's largest trading post, where Metro Manila truckers converge every day to buy fresh Benguet cabbages, carrots, potatoes, lettuce and Baguio beans.

Fongwan said the good economic surge from the trading post attracted banks, fast food chains and even a shopping center from Baguio.

Plastic and styrofoam containers now make up the 17.7 tons of recyclable wastes and 14.63 tons of residual waste that make up the town's daily garbage, according to the La Trinidad Composting Center.

Fongwan said 63.7 percent of that garbage (37.51 tons) remains biodegradable wastes.

"We get too much peelings from vegetables (that are traded) at the La Trinidad trading post, although that has been reduced now that the Halsema Highway (Benguet sections) are open," he told the INQUIRER.

While acknowledging that the town now deals with urban problems, Fongwan said La Trinidad has been careful about increasing its population density given Baguio's own garbage crisis.

Fongwan said La Trinidad intends to skirt Baguio's problems by developing its first sanitary landfill and compost facility.

Jointly financed by the Benguet government, La Trinidad's own treasury and by the United Nations Development Program, Fongwan hopes to operate the composting facility and a proposed bioreactor to convert the compost into electricity in the first quarter of 2005. By 2007, Fongwan expects the landfill to be completely operational. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tanong Ng Bayan

INQ TV

ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 10:00pm

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Piliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!

I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

text 2910

Buwis sa yosi at alak, dapat bang taasan?

Narito ang ilan sa mga sagot ninyo. Text na!

"oo upng mkdgdg 2long s ating bns at mbwsn ang gslusin at skit ng my bisyo at ibis n pby srill result ng bisyo"
Adelia O. Sapalo, Muntinlupa

"dpat ing pra d ing cancer s bga & atay ang mpla ng yoc kdri & taklakero cancer p s buisal"
Divina Eleanor S. Pagulo, Baclaran, Paranaque

STRANDED
Commuters in northern Quezon face the sea waiting for a ship to come close to give them their much awaited ride to Mauban, Quezon or Aurora province. They were kept at port when two typhoons struck Quezon. DELFIN MALLARI

Cops arrest trader for Israeli's killing

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Police arrested the business partner of an Israeli on suspicion that he killed the foreigner.

Supt. Rolando Magno, head of the provincial police's special operations group, said the body of Deny Benshimon, 28, was found in Barangay Labuan in Umingan on Tuesday night. His body bore stab wounds.

Investigators suspected that Benshimon's business partner, Tito Fernandez, was behind the killing after they found blood stains in his red Mitsubishi pickup.

Magno said the blood specimens were brought to the Philippine National Police laboratory in Camp Crame for tests to determine if the blood belonged to Benshimon.

Magno said they released Fernandez pending results of investigation and after he signed a document saying he would appear anytime the police would summon him.

Magno said the provincial police office has coordinated with the Israeli Embassy regarding the murder.

Benshimon's wife, Lyka Macasieb, told police that her last conversation with her husband was two hours before his body was found on Tuesday.

When informed that a red Mitsubishi pickup was seen by a witness leaving the crime scene, Macasieb told policemen that Fernandez owns a similar vehicle.

Fernandez denied killing Benshimon and told investigators that he went to Nueva Ecija at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

But Magno said Fernandez was accosted by a policeman stationed in a checkpoint in Umingan at around 6:30 p.m. that day.

Benshimon arrived in the country two years ago and lived with his wife Macasieb in Malasiqui town. Benshimon met Macasieb while the latter was working as a maid in Israel.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Women to get more seats in peace panel

DAVAO CITY—The government peace panel would allocate one more seat for the women sector to ensure that women's issues will not be left out in the peace rebuilding efforts for post-conflict Mindanao, an adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

Teresita Delez, peace adviser of Ms Arroyo, made the statement after the Mindanao Commission on Women (MCW), urged the government panel to include at least two women representatives in the peace negotiations to ensure that gender issues are included in the talks.

Irene Santiago, chair of the MCW, said women's groups have learned their lessons from previous peace rebuilding efforts where women's issues were often sidestepped as former conflict areas start a new era of peace.

Delez agreed with the observation, saying that in the previous peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front, women only got 10 percent of the total funds poured into former MNLF-controlled areas.

"This is way too low," Deles said.

Some $50 million has been earmarked for the Mindanao Trust Fund once the final agreement has been signed between the government and the MILF according to Delez, who recently visited the city for a gathering of Mindanao women leaders.

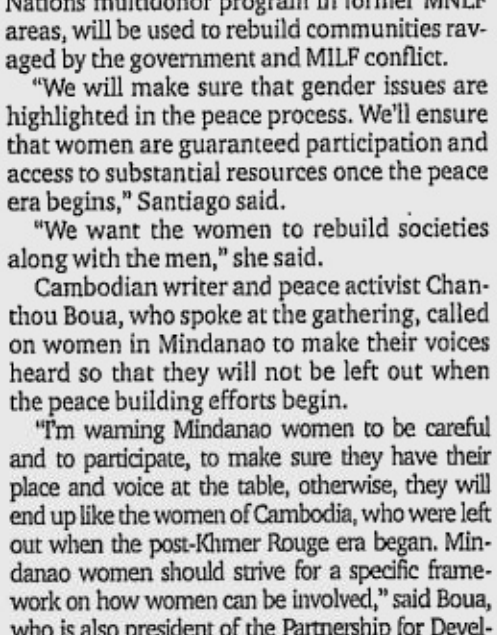
The trust fund, which will come from donor communities mostly involved in the United Nations multidonor program in former MNLF areas, will be used to rebuild communities ravaged by the government and MILF conflict.

"We will make sure that gender issues are highlighted in the peace process. We'll ensure that women are guaranteed participation and access to substantial resources once the peace era begins," Santiago said.

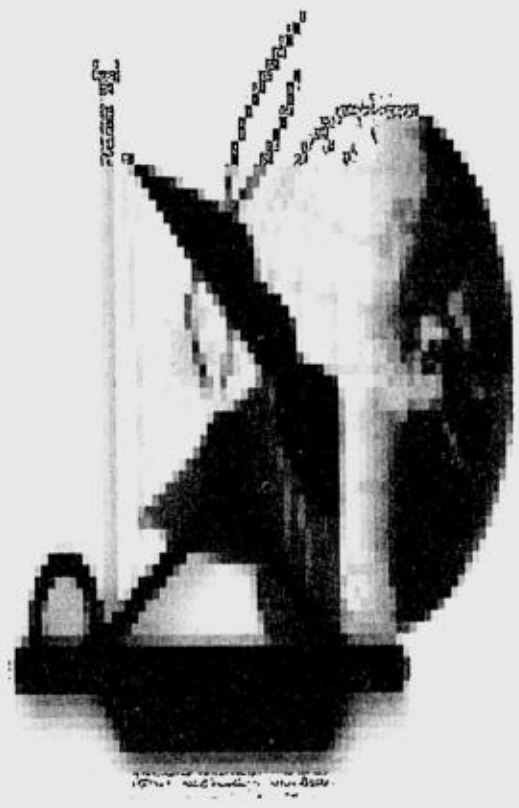
"We want the women to rebuild societies along with the men," she said.

Cambodian writer and peace activist Chanthou Boua, who spoke at the gathering, called on women in Mindanao to make their voices heard so that they will not be left out when the peace building efforts begin.

"I'm warning Mindanao women to be careful and to participate, to make sure they have their place and voice at the table, otherwise, they will end up like the women of Cambodia, who were left out when the post-Khmer Rouge era began. Mindanao women should strive for a specific framework on how women can be involved," said Boua, who is also president of the Partnership for Development in Kampuchea. *Germelina A. Lacorte and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



PROTECTED SPECIES
Mayor Luisito Marty (second from left) and Bruce Oliver, chair for Asia of the Environmental Protection Agency of the United Nations, watch as workers put a tag on a turtle before it is released into its natural habitat in Zambales.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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4. Board of Nursing's efforts in promoting the standards of nursing practice by promoting nursing specialty certification and we urge the BON to engage more aggressively in regulation of nursing review centers to ensure their quality;
5. Fast tracking of nurse educators' training and advanced practice nurses by selected nursing schools and training hospitals in order to renew our national nurse resources and create national nurse pools;
6. Efforts on stimulating domestic placement with competitive compensation packages and decent working conditions instead of merely adopting proposals to compel nurses to serve for at least two years before going abroad;
7. Managed nurse migration that allows us to share our nurse resources abroad, while ensuring that we have an equitable domestic stock, so that our own health care system remains robust to provide health care to all Filipinos; and
8. The accomplishment of an enabling legislation or an Executive Order that will authorize selected national government agencies to work with the health sector to fast track solutions to the present nursing crisis should be prioritized.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Making a difference in mining

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Bunawan, Agusan del Sur

CORPORATE social responsibility is fast becoming a fad among big companies worldwide and PhilSaga Mining Corp. (PMC), a small mining firm nestled in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, is no exception.

PhilSaga has started adopting the philosophy in a bid to prove that mining, contrary to common perceptions, is not offensive to the environment. Its officials also wanted to prove that their operation did not transgress the ancestral domain rights of indigenous communities.

PhilSaga does not want to be known as a company that destroys the area it is operating in. With this, it established its social arm, the Mindanao PhilSaga Foundation Inc.

Dr. Victor Salvado, MPFI president, said the company had already poured about P6 million into community development projects in the area from January to September.

The foundation set up a water system facility, school buildings and agricultural facilities for the local farmers, he said. It is also sending students to schools through scholarship grants.

Village projects

In caring for the environment, Salvado said the company, through the MPFI, had already planted thousands of trees in the vast expanse of the mine site.

"This is one of the company's way of giving to the community what is due to them," he said.

Salvado said the foundation was closely working with the municipal government on various infrastructure projects in Bunawan's 10 barangays. "We just have to improve the government program so that the impact would be much greater," he said.

Although categorized as a small-scale mining firm, PhilSaga has hired experts in mining and hopes that it will one day become the largest gold mining firm in Mindanao.

PhilSaga officials said they were confident of their business outlook because the experts help mold the firm into a "well-structured and well organized" company.

Early years

With the recent Supreme Court ruling reversing its earlier decision of disallowing foreign investors from wholly operating mining companies, the officials foresaw more good things to happen to the mining industry, which may well be the answer to the country's economic woes.

PhilSaga (formerly Banahaw Co.) is currently owned by partners Samuel Afdal, a retired colonel, and William Phillips, a British, who has been in the mining business for the past 37 years, covering Australia, Singapore and the Philippines.

PhilSaga started its operations with an uncertain future, as what the mining industry experienced in other parts of the world.

Banahaw, which is owned by an Australian mining firm, was the first to develop the mine site in Bunawan in 1989 and installed the mining processing plants after entering an agreement with the government during the term of President Corazon Aquino.

WILLIAM Philips, a miner of 37 years in different parts of the world, said the Philippines is his last stop and aspires only to improve the mining industry in the country. DENNIS JAY C. SANTOS

But communist insurgency, peace and order problems, and lack of development forced Banahaw to close shop and sell its rights.

Medium scale

The mining site went from one firm to another, until PhilSaga bought it on 2000. Officials said they were then apprehensive that they might wind up shutting down as their predecessors did if they failed to fully develop their operations.

They realized that the only way the company could generate income and eventually a revenue for the government was through a large-scale operation. But this would require government intervention by allowing their small-scale mining status to be graduated to medium scale.

"We are frantic in getting our license as a medium-scale mining firm," Afdal said, adding that this matters to the very survival of their company.

As a small-scale mining firm, they are only allowed to extract ores up to about 50 tons a day. With the medium scale status, they can harvest as much as 750 tons a day. "This would increase our production and sustain the mining operation," Afdal said.

Responsibility

He said that the firm have a limited income because the operation cost of the whole mining process was excessively huge. Operation cost alone averaged about P18 million to P23 million a month.

The government has given assurance to help the mining industry players revive the underdeveloped industry due to its economic potential. "It's not only needed in commerce, but it is also needed in the country," Afdal explained.

Phillips said his company was a responsible one with total regard for the environment, conscious of the rights of the indigenous peoples, and helpful to the community by way of generating jobs and government revenues, and assisting in the delivery of social services.

"Mining industry in the Philippines is good for the government," he said. "It can make a lot of money," he said, adding that it got "a tremendous future but that has to be controlled."

In his firm, Phillips said a miner could receive an average monthly income of P14,000. The amount gets bigger depending on the work output, he said.

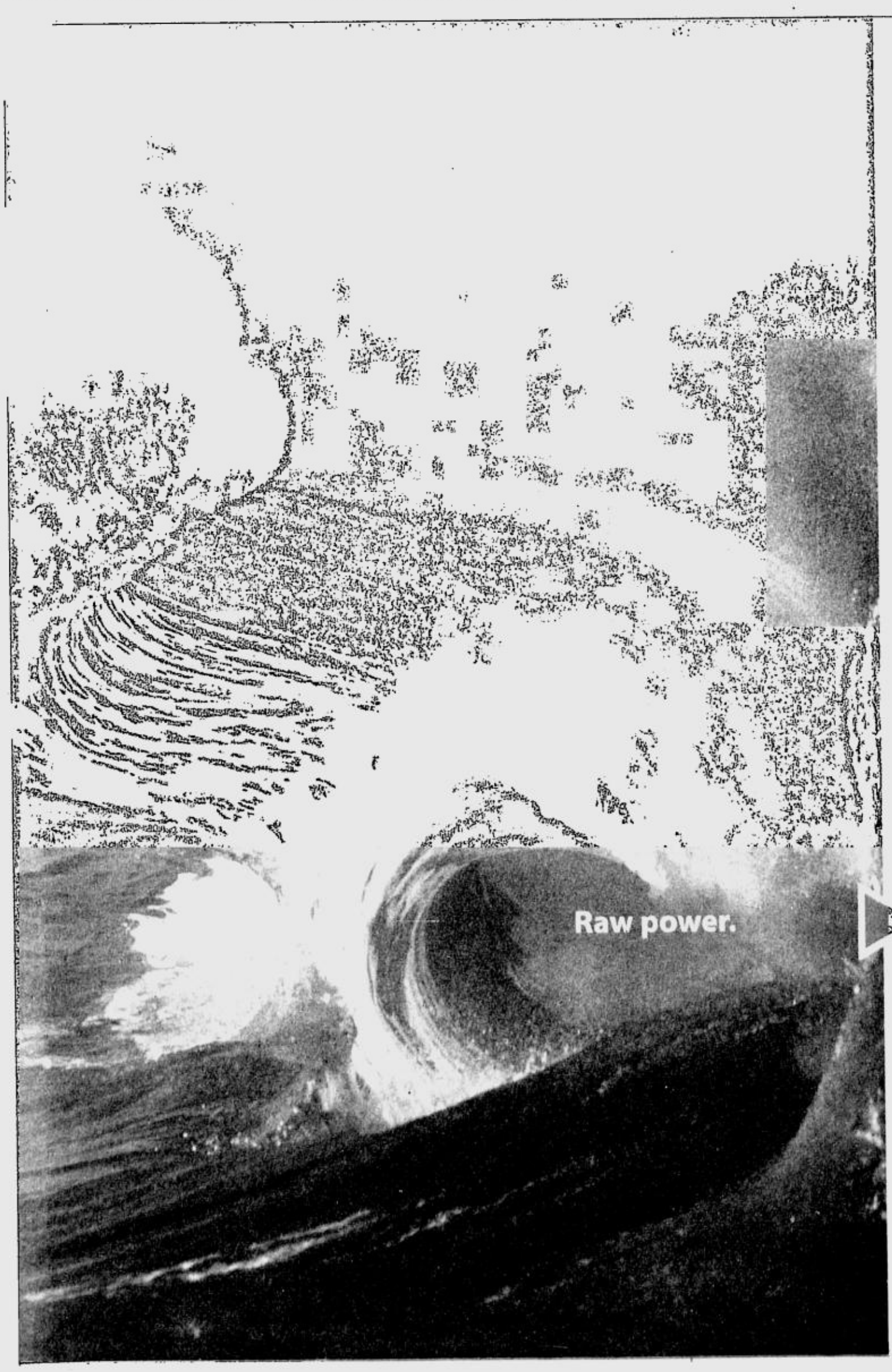
Phillips said he had practically been a miner all his life. "This is my last stop," he said adding that he does it for the love of mining and how he can help achieve the dreams of miners have a better life.

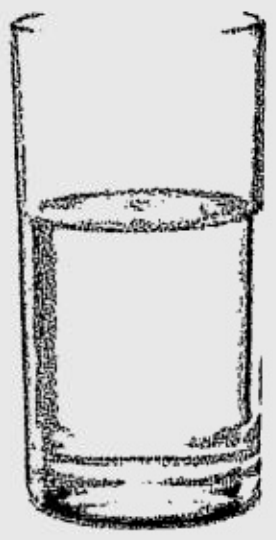
He is in charge of the mining of ores, while Afdal, the company president, takes care of administration.

Afdal and Phillips, both in their early 50s, said they were heading for the "twilight of their lives" and would only hope their company succeeded for the benefit of many people.

At present, Philsaga revealied that it was pursuing a "large vein" of gold ore hidden in the earth crust. This would mean "higher grades" of gold, which is economically viable for the company.

The Philsaga officials believes they can bring back the glory days of gold mining in Mindanao, without harming the environment and without displacing people in its area of operation.





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Suspects in radioman's slay cleared

By Recto I. Vidal and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—The Aklan provincial prosecutors' office has dismissed the criminal complaint against the suspects in the killing of a Kalibo-based broadcaster in 2001.

In a six-page resolution dated Dec. 6 but released on Thursday, the prosecutor's office said there was no probable cause to indict Jessie Ticar, Amador Raz and two unidentified suspects for the killing of Rolando Ureta.

The resolution was signed by Apolinario Barrios, assistant provincial prosecutor, and approved by Lourdes Quimpo-Mayor, provincial prosecutor.

In the resolution, Barrios said their investigation showed that the lone witness in the killing lied when he claimed that he was near the place where he saw Ticar and Raz allegedly shoot the victim.

Barrios said the testimony of the witness was contradicted by his father Perlito Sonio and uncle Diego Masangya who executed separate affidavits saying the witness was in Iloilo City at the time of the killing.

He said witnesses backed the alibis of Ticar and Raz.

Supt. Odelardo Magayanes, acting provincial police director, said they will appeal the decision.

He also urged various media groups to help provide Ureta's family with a lawyer who would assist them in the case.

Augusto Tolentino, chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas-Aklan, said the National Press Club and the KBP were willing to provide lawyers who had offered their free legal services.

The 32-year-old witness said in his affidavit that he saw Ticar and Raz shooting the broadcaster along the national highway in Barangay Bagtu, Lezo town, Aklan, around 7 km west of the capital town of Kalibo on Jan. 3, 2001.

Ureta fell in a ditch and managed to reach a house alongside the national highway before the two suspects finished him off.

Before he was killed, Ureta was investigating the proliferation of illegal gambling and illegal drugs in the province.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

C. Luzon execs map out rehabilitation

CITY OF MALOLOS—Members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Central Luzon convened for an emergency meeting here on Thursday, laying out the initial steps in the rehabilitation of provinces battered by landslides and flash floods since late November.

Much of the recovery plan will tap lessons learned from how the government, the private sector and the victims overcame the catastrophic effects of the July 1990 Luzon earthquake and the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, according to Remigio Mercado, regional director of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), co-chair of the RDC.

"Prolonged delivery of relief goods would delay the region's development," said Florita Villar, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Alex Ocampo of the Aurora provincial government said a culture of dependence has started seeping among the affected residents in the province.

In his province, Ocampo said the last three weeks had seen some 200,000 people dependent on food aid on the heels of displacements. Landslides had killed more than 100 people in Aurora, most of them in Dingalan, Ma. Aurora, San Luis and Baler towns.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said damage to infrastructure alone in the region reached P687 million.

Nueva Ecija, the food bowl of the region, reported some P200 million in agricultural losses because of flash floods.

In the meeting, the executive committee formed the Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of government agencies and nongovernment organizations.

Chaired by the regional chiefs of the Neda and Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, the TWG will start a three-day workshop in January to detail the rehabilitation plan. Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, RDC co-chair, committed P200,000 for the activity.

Neda was still raising funds for the risk assessment and hazard mapping, the basic activity done in the July 1990 earthquake and the Pinatubo eruptions and its succeeding lahar flows, Mercado said.

In the meeting, De la Cruz stressed the need for strong policy enforcements, especially that which concerns the environment.

She urged the environment officials to stop the encroachment of settlers in watershed areas or the issuance of free patents there to prevent a repeat of what happened in Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quezon villages.

De la Cruz said the strings of disasters also showed the need to strengthen the co-management of resources by local governments and national government agencies.

Local officials in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Aurora, Rizal, Metro Manila and Quezon—since sharing territorial boundaries—should converge efforts in protecting the forests.

De la Cruz's inputs would form part of the policy aspect of the rehabilitation plan, said Mercado.

"Our aim is to restore normalcy and mitigate future disasters," he added. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

A GIRL'S attention is diverted to a photographer as she and her family wait in line for relief goods in Aurora province. The province suffered heavily as a result of two typhoons that struck it one after the other. AP

De Oro customs reports increase in taxes, duties

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Bureau of Customs (BOC) here said its collection grew by 17 percent from last year's P1.16 billion.

Lourdes Mangaoang, customs collector, said from January to last month alone, they already collected about P1.23 billion.

Mangaoang attributed the high rate of revenue and duties collections here to the significant decrease in cases of corruption and the streamlining of procedures.

"I simply implemented the uniformed flowchart in accordance with customs rules and procedures, which were grossly violated in the past. (With the implementation) transactions need not take several days to process and it cut down red tape," she said. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DPWH says road clearing now 24-hours

CLEARING operations on roads in typhoon-ravaged areas in Luzon have gone full swing as the Department of Public Works and Highways puts up bridges in six sites in three provinces at the north end of Luzon.

Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez said task forces had been mobilized in typhoon-damaged areas to clear roads and bridges of landslide debris and logs.

"There are now 10 task forces equipped with clearing equipment like bulldozers, backhoes, loaders and trucks," Soriquez said, identifying the provinces of Isabela, Aurora, Quezon, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur as priority areas.

The DPWH statement quoted Soriquez as saying part of the annual budget of the department for calamity response has been set aside for the 10 task forces now on 24-hour shifts.

"Each team has P1 million for operating expenses," he said.

Soriquez said another P9 million has been set aside for emergency bridge works.

He said 19 Mabey-Johnson Bridges under the President's Bridge Program would be built in six sites in three provinces.

US Marine LCpl. Matthew Grimmer of the 3rd marine expeditionary force based in Okinawa views the destruction wrought by two typhoons in Luzon. He and several other US soldiers are helping in rehabilitation programs for typhoon victims. AP

Cordillera farmers hike veggie output

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Cordillera farmers have increased their output to a million kilograms of assorted vegetables daily in spite of an impending agreement over an early harvest program (EHP) between the government and China that could displace local produce, Mayor Nestor Fongwan said.

Fongwan said many abandoned farms in Benguet producing potatoes, carrots, Baguio beans, lettuce and cabbage have been reactivated as people troop back from the cities where unemployment levels hit all time highs.

The potential opening of new mines has also reopened an old Benguet vegetable market, agriculture officials said.

Benguet farms suffered with the closure of the American bases in 1991 and by the gradual shutdown of mines like Benguet Corp. This only left Metro Manila supermarkets and restaurants as the direct clients of Cordillera's salad vegetables, according to documents from the Benguet government.

Fongwan said farmers are competing to win contracts with Metro Manila retailers, who ship tons of vegetables at almost every hour of each day.

La Trinidad hosts the region's largest trading post, which had been documenting sharp but steady increases in the volumes of vegetables produced by Benguet, Mt. Province and other towns which trade with Metro Manila truckers, Fongwan told reporters.

Benguet officials and farmers have sued importers accused of smuggling salad vegetables from China, and parts of Europe, to ensure that "unfair competition" is stopped while the country negotiates better trade terms with other countries, Fongwan said.

He said Benguet officials intervened when importers sued Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and the Bureau of Plant Industry in order to legitimize 35 container vans containing imported carrots that were impounded by customs officials.

He said the DA officials lost the case in a Manila regional trial court, but Yap and the Benguet officials managed to win a 60-day temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Samar, Biliran lost P26.9M in infra, crops to 'Yoyong'

TACLOBAN CITY—At least P26.9 million worth of infrastructure and agricultural products were destroyed in Northern Samar and Biliran due to heavy rains and winds spawned by Typhoon "Yoyong."

In a report to the Office of the Civil Defense in Eastern Visayas, Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina said the damage to some roads in his province had reached P2.9 million.

In Northern Samar, Yoyong damaged more than P20.5 million worth of infrastructure, including some national roads, said Gov. Raul Daza.

Damage to livestock and some agricultural products like banana, rice, corn and root crops reached P2.85 million, he added.

The storm also destroyed several houses that rendered homeless 1,215 families or 4,874 individuals from the towns of Catarman and San Jose.

"I have also furnished the National Disaster Coordinating Council of my report as my basis to ask for a possible financial assistance from the national government," he told the INQUIRER when reached through his mobile phone. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Volunteer dies of heart attack as he helps in donations

LUCENA CITY—Rolando Catausan, 41, a technician in a local cable TV company, wanted to reach the calamity stricken areas of northern Quezon to help in the distribution of relief goods but he suffered a heart attack while helping in the unloading of assorted donations Thursday morning.

"His only request before he dies was that we let him join the next batch of volunteers in going to Infanta. He wanted to distribute by himself the relief goods that he helped pack in the studio," said Arnel Avila, host of "Pag-usapan Natin," a daily program aired over STV6 here in Lucena City.

On Thursday afternoon, a few minutes before Catausan reported for work, he found time to help the other TV crewmen in the unloading of donations of rice and assorted food at the back of the Quezon CATV studio in the University Site in this city.

Shortly after the victim singly unloaded a sack of rice, Catusan suddenly collapsed holding his chest.

He was rushed to the nearest hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

According to Avila, the victim's wife told them that Catausan has a history of hypertension.

"He really wanted to reach Infanta, that's why he helped in the unloading. He was not able to join the first batch of STV6 volunteers because he was on duty," Avila said.

Catausan left three young children and his wife, Felicidad.

Avila said next week, the firm's crew and technicians would bring to northern Quezon a shipload of relief goods that were entrusted to his program by concerned citizens and different civic and nongovernment organizations.

"We offered that shipload of relief goods in memory of Rolly," Avila said.

Meanwhile, the second trip of "mercy ship" Grandstar Roro 2 to northern Quezon on Wednesday suffered a snag when it failed to dock in Real port in Barangay Ungos due to low tide and unfamiliarity with the tricky approach on the pier.

"We did not make it on time due to the risky condition of the sea fronting northern Quezon. Aside from occasional giant waves, the sea was also littered with huge logs...," said engineer Adolfo Bartolata, technical manager of Philippine Nippon Kyoie Corp. who owns Grandstar Roro 2. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On November 19, 2004, ten (10) teams from the 7th Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (7RCIDU) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) swooped down on separate establishments in Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu City suspected of distributing Batteries infringing on the ***EVEREADY***™ and Cat and 9™ trademarks. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the CIDU operatives served search warrants on the following establishments:

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5. *UNITOP GENERAL MERCHANDISE CO.*
6. *STRAIGHT A MARKETING*
7. *SILVER J TRADING*
8. *FOUR SEASONS MARKETING*

All told, CIDG operatives seized approximately more than 400,000 pieces Everpower batteries alleged to have infringed on the ***EVEREADY***™ and Cat and 9™ trademarks. The necessary criminal and civil complaint-charges against the said establishments are now being prepared. If convicted, the parties accused may be subject to penalties of up to five (5) years imprisonment plus fine.

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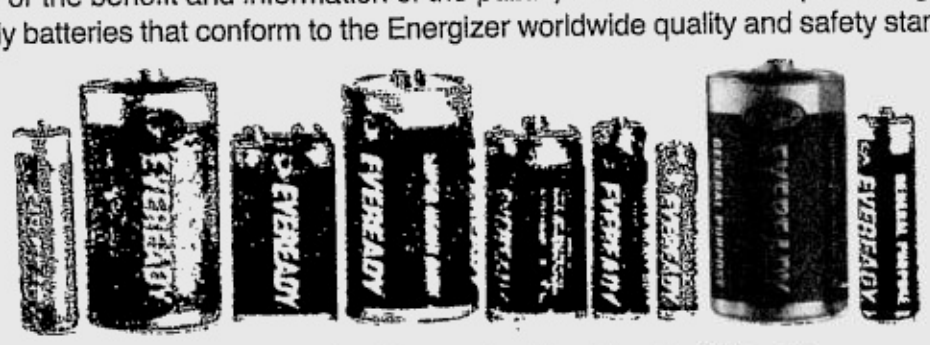

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TWO FOR THE ROAD

Fil-Am siblings love and live Pinoy culture

By Tina G. Santos

UNLIKE Jasmine Trias, Filipino-American siblings Nichi Renea and Bernard Ellorin were never given a rousing welcome by screaming fans. Photographers didn't scramble for choice spots at the airport to get a shot every time they come and visit the country.

But unknown to most Filipinos, the Ellorins, just like the "American Idol" finalist, have become sources of pride for their countrymen.

Outreach

The Ellorins have been conducting outreach sessions on Philippine culture through music and dance for the Filipino-American community in San Diego, California, where they both grew up, for the past few years now.

Nichi, 30, used to be a member of the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company when she was on a year-long visit here, while Bernard is currently enrolled in a course on traditional Philippine music at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Both said that it was the lack of Filipino cultural representation in the United States that heightened their interest in their roots and cultural identity.

Identity crisis

"As a Filipino growing up, you didn't see yourself represented in the community, you didn't feel a sense of inclusion into the culture, and so a lot of Filipinos just identify themselves with whatever is the dominant culture. There's a bit of an identity crisis, so to speak. For Bernard and I, it was like were on a search of our roots," Nichi said.

"Even Filipinos who had been in America for a long time, those who have more or less helped build America to a certain extent, were not represented in our history books," Bernard lamented. "I think a lot of young Filipinos, when they get to the university level, are really seeking an authentic representation of what is Filipino."

The siblings claimed that they got enthralled with the performing arts because of their mother, Dina.

"She (Dina) opened the door of opportunity for us to discover and appreciate Philippine arts and culture by encouraging us to join the Samahan Philippine Folk Dance Company in San Diego," Nichi said.

Encouraging youth

Samahan is an organization formed to encourage Fil-Am youths in San Diego to appreciate their own culture.

Dina, a UP food technology graduate who plays the angklung, a popular bamboo musical instrument, is currently the president of Samahan, which has been in existence for 30 years now.

"I have always loved Philippine arts. In San Diego, most Fil-Ams are very proud to show off their culture," Dina said. "Traditional cultural

FIL-AMS/ A23

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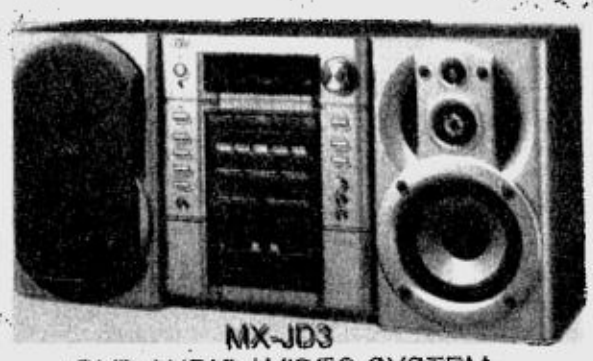

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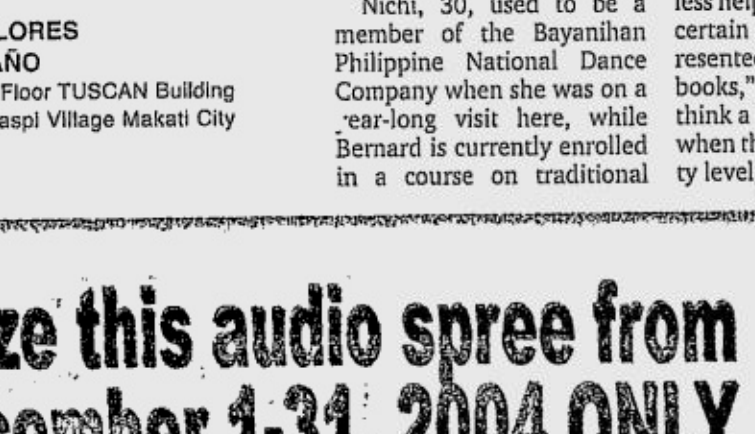

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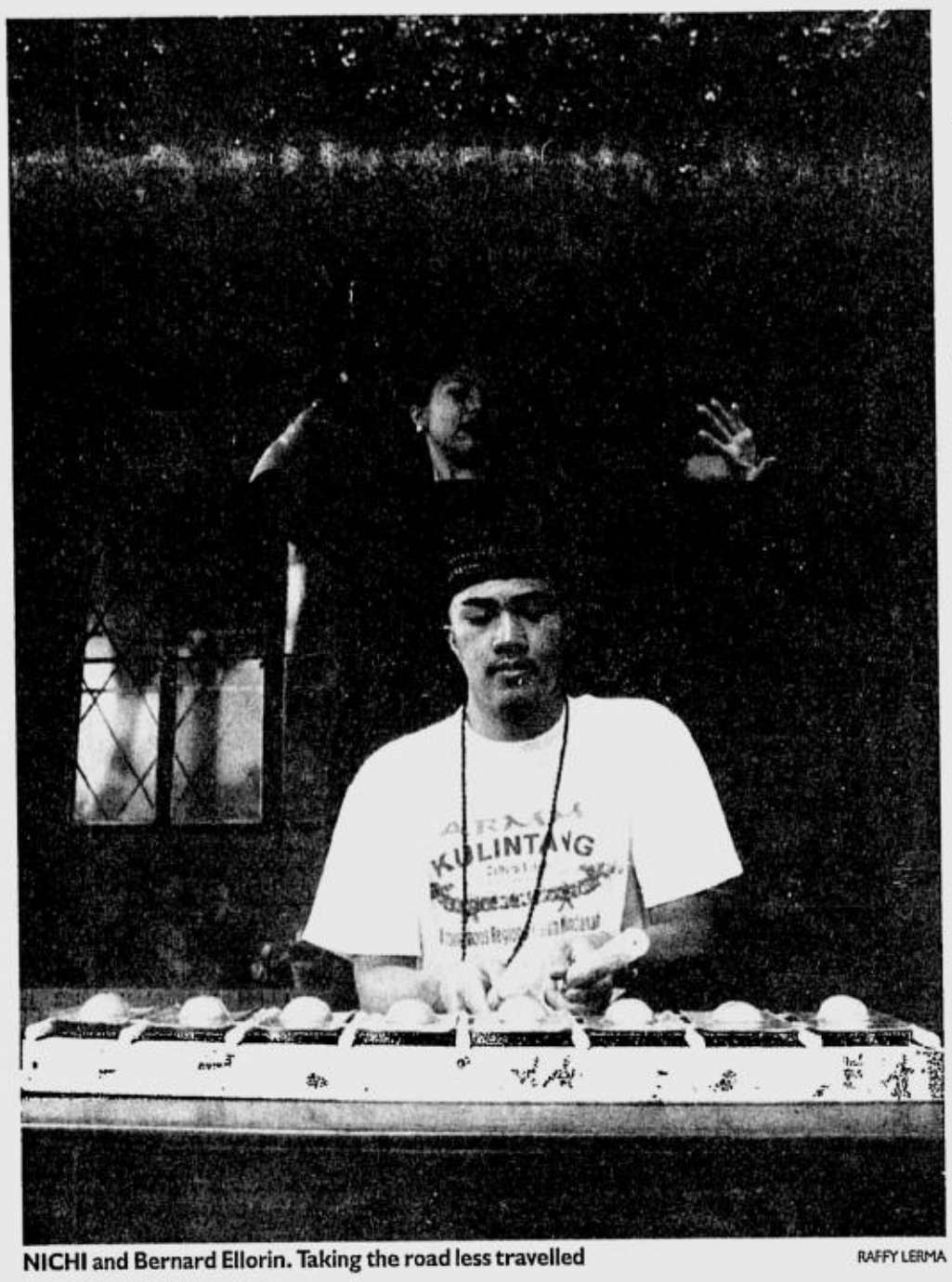

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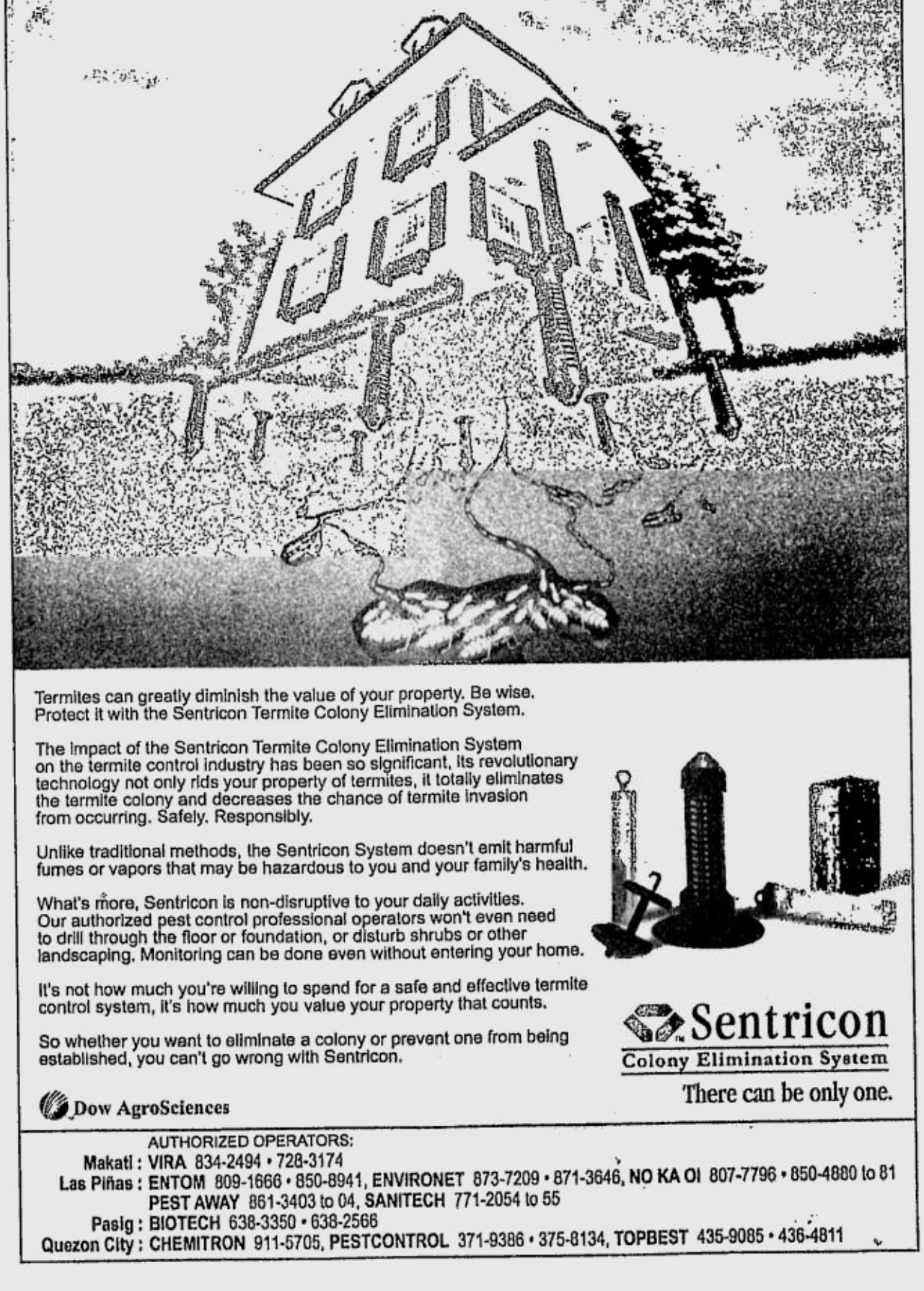

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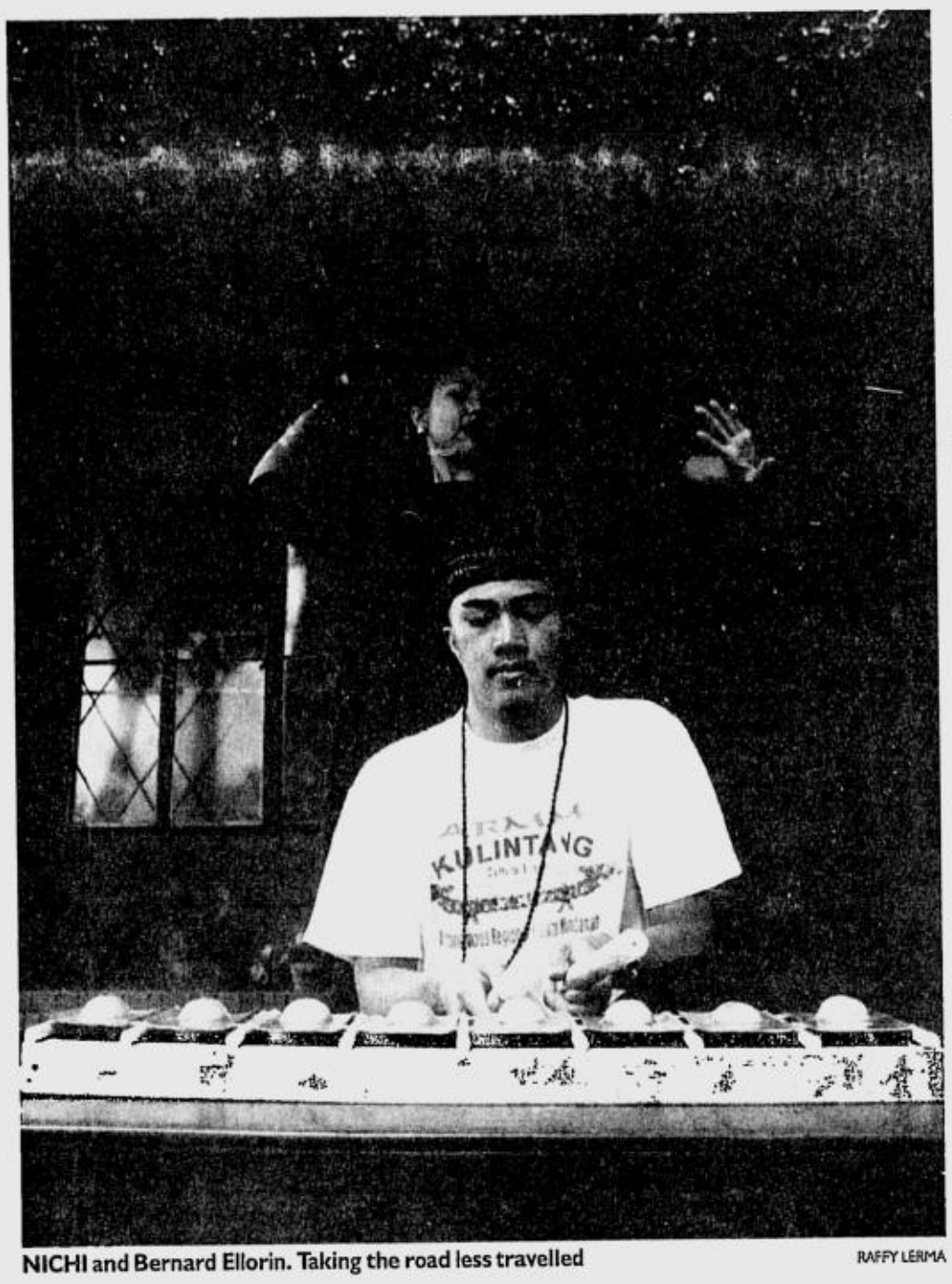

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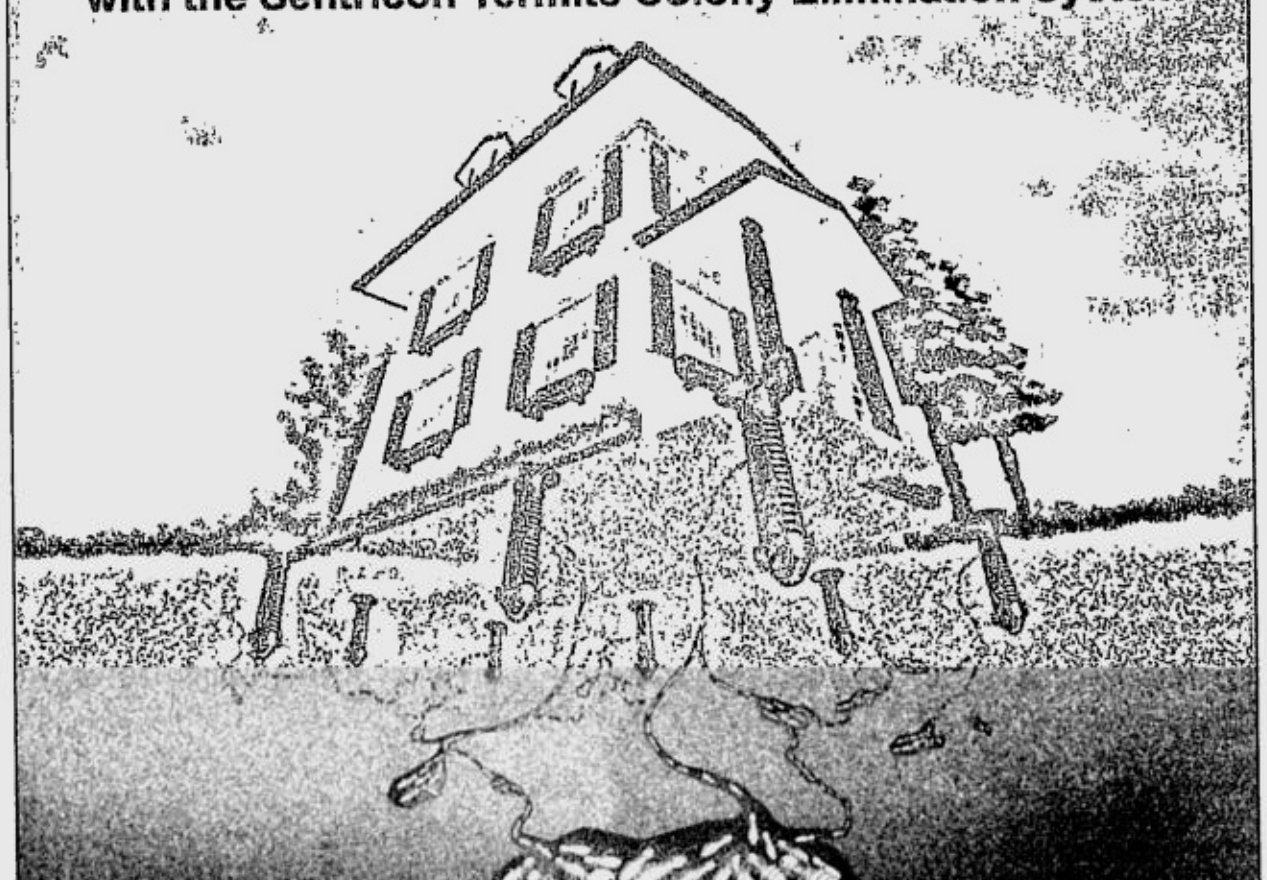

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Gin Kings stake win run vs Aces

AS THE Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup enters the final phase of the elimination round, a victory or defeat could shake up the rankings going into the playoffs.

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	11	4
Ginebra	10	4
Shell	10	6
San Miguel	7	8
Purefoods	7	8
Red Bull	6	7
Alaska	6	9
Coca-Cola	6	9
FedEx	5	9
Sta. Lucia	5	9

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ginebra vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola

That's why Barangay Ginebra has been doing everything humanely possible to keep its win streak going.

The Gin Kings hope to sustain their winning ways against the Alaska Aces and move closer from grabbing an outright semifinal seat today at the Araneta Coliseum.

After scoring seven victories in eight games, including their last three assignments, the Gin Kings are only two wins away from taking the No. 2 spot after the 18-game elimination round.

Surprisingly, the lone stain on the Gin Kings' 7-1 record for the past eight games was inflicted by the Aces in a 98-95 overtime reversal when Alaska rallied from 24 points down.

The top two teams automatically advance to the semifinals while the rest go for each other's throat in the wildcard phase.

Barangay Ginebra (10-4) is half a game behind Talk 'N Text (11-4) while Shell is running third with a 10-6 record.

Just in case the Turbochargers sweep their remaining games and the Gin Kings win at least two of their last four outings, the Fiesta Conference champions will be guaranteed a semifinal spot by virtue of a higher quotient.

Shell coach Leo Austria and Siot Tanquingcen of Ginebra split their head-to-head encounter with the Gin Kings beating the Turbochargers, 95-86, in Urdaneta City last Thursday.

During their initial face-off, the Turbochargers prevailed, 86-81.

"Our remaining games are quite heavy," said Tanquingcen. "We have to maintain our composure and intensity just like in the past games to keep us going."

For the Aces, the thought of securing one of the top two slots vanished immediately after Ginebra, Talk 'N Text and Shell hit the 10-game winning mark.

Coach Tim Cone and the Aces (6-9) are just seeking a twice-to-beat edge or the No. 4 berth into the wildcard phase.

Also jockeying for the No. 4 position are San Miguel Beer and Purefoods (tied at 7-8), Red Bull Barako (6-7) and Coca-Cola (6-9).

On a three-game roll, the Barakos try to keep their streak going against the Tigers in the other game.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Jewels thwart Knights** /A26

■ **Red Star Rising eyes repeat in PGC today** /A27

■ **Wizards, Magic shrink foes** /A28

Jewelers take Game 1; fight for 3rd today

GAME TUESDAY
(*University of the Assumption*)
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre-Pampanga vs Quezon Coco Huskers (for third place)

SANTO Domingo, Ilocos Sur—M. Lhuillier-Cebu City played more aggressively in the final canto to outlast Ilocos Sur Snipers, 80-77, yesterday and draw first blood in the United Regional Basketball League finals yesterday at the Santo Domingo Peoples Center here.

It was yet the league's tightest match so far as both teams switched leads in the first three quarters.

But to the shock and dismay of the packed hometown crowd, the Jewelers of Michel Lhuillier never lost their poise and defied the odds to accomplish the mission of winning one game on their rivals' turf.

Game Two is being played at press time with M. Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba hoping his wards could pull a repeat to move a win away from earning the distinction of being URBL's first champion.

The best-of-five championship series sponsored by Adidas and Lactovitale will move to Cebu for Game Three.

"We did it," exclaimed Alcoseba after the game. "I told my players to simply relax and play their normal game and everything else will follow."

Enjoying a 64-60 lead after three quarters, James Laygo hit a triple to signal the start of the final quarter and give M. Lhuillier what proved to be the biggest lead of the game, 67-60.

Dondon Mendoza sparked a 9-2 retaliation that evened the count for the last time at 69, with 3:48 to play.

Laygo then hit back-to-back baskets that finally gave M. Lhuillier the lead for good, 73-69, with barely three minutes remaining in the game.

Alcoseba called on his crew to step up on defense, which effectively choked the Snipers and gave them a hard time cracking at the three-point area while timely freethrows by Bruce Dacia and Woodraw Enriquez kept the Snipers at bay.

Leo Bat-og gave the crowd a highlight moment to remember as he raced to the basket and tipped in his own miss with just 30 seconds to go.

A late scoring run by Jerome Barbosa settled the final tally, 80-77.

Laygo topscored for M. Lhuillier with 19 points, eight of which he netted in the final period.

Dacia chipped in 18 markers while the wiry Bat-og contributed a double-double, knocking in with 15 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

Barbosa paced the Snipers with 18 and Francis Rauschmayer and Mendoza chipped in 15 each.

Snipers coach Mario Quitoriano has barely 24 hours to regroup his troops for Game Two of the series.

Meanwhile, the Quezon Coco Huskers and Harbour Centre-Pampanga will clash in a sudden-death knockout for third place on Tuesday at the University of Assumption gym in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The encounter will be a fund raising campaign where proceeds will be donated by the URBL to the victims of the recent typhoons that hit Quezon and nearby provinces.

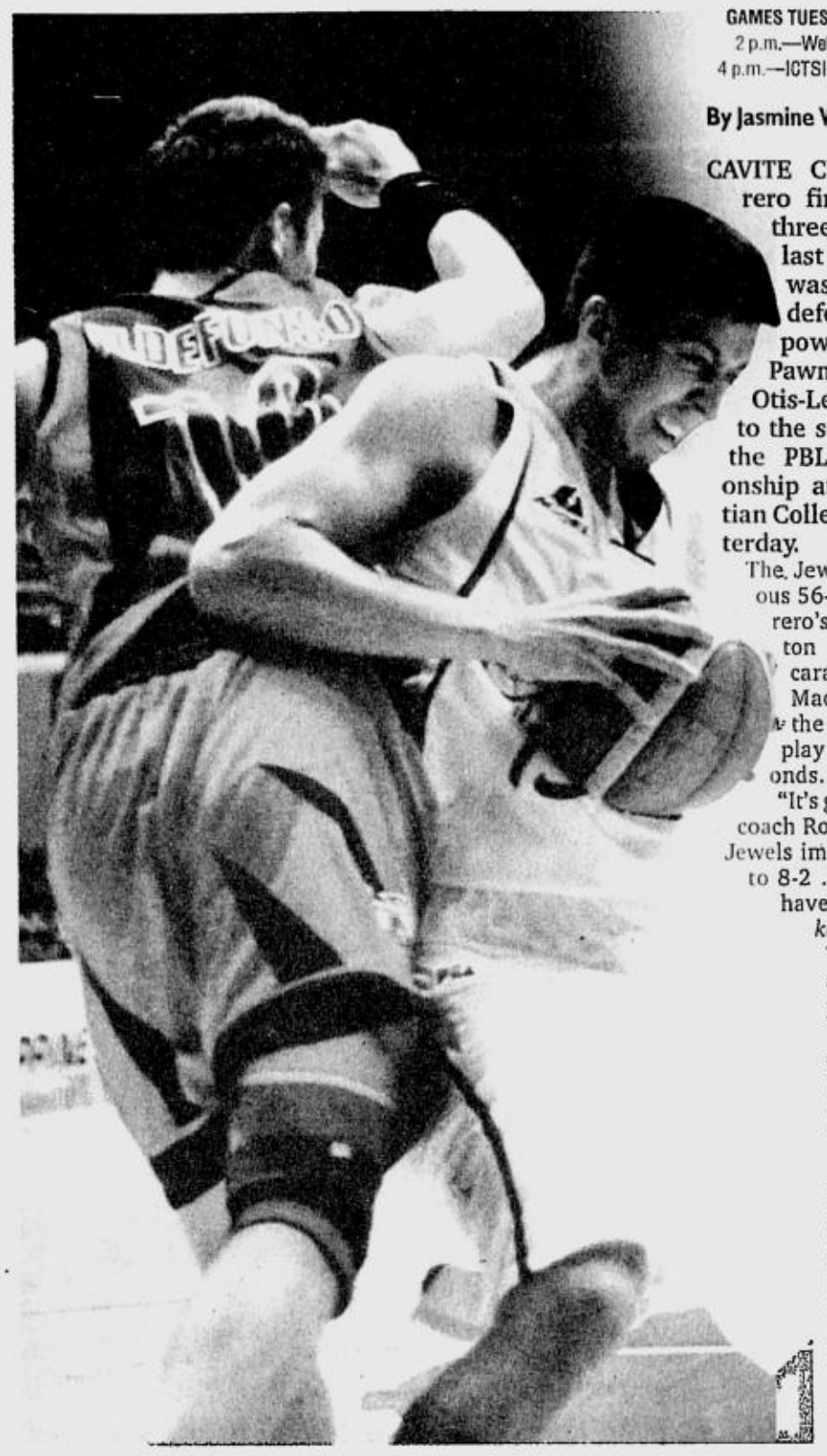
The scores:

M. LHUILLIER 80—Laygo 19, Dacia 18, Bat-og 15, Enriquez 9, Marata 5, Ocañada 4, Cañoneo 2, Smith 2, Aying 2, De Guzman 2, Garcia 1, Lumantas 1.

ILOCOS SUR 77—Barbosa 18, Rauschmayer 15, D Mendoza 15, Hardin 10, Cardel 7, Manigo 4, Santa Cruz 4, Yu 2, Sanders 2, Butel 0, Tama 0.

Quarterscores: 22-20, 42-45, 64-60, 80-77.

Jewels thwart Knights, keep hold of PBL lead



MY BALL: Mark Telan (right) of Talk 'N Text beats San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso for the rebound in their PBA game Friday. The Beermen won, 97-82. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TUESDAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Welcoat vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs AMP-Ateneo

By Jasmine W. Payo

CAVITE CITY—Paul Guerrero fired the winning three-pointer in the last 28 seconds but it was Alex Compton's defensive effort that powered Montaña Pawnshop past Toyota Otis-Letran, 57-54, and to the solo leadership in the PBL Open Championship at the San Sebastian College Gym here yesterday.

The Jewels held a precarious 56-54 lead after Guerrero's triple, but Compton intercepted JP Alcaraz's pass to Mark Macapagal and derail the Knights' offensive play in the final five seconds.

"It's got to be heart," said coach Robert Sison after the Jewels improved their record to 8-2 . "I'm so glad that I have this team. *Wala kaming iwanan.* That's composure and character for you."

Jon Dan Salvador shot a game-high 16 points in Montaña's come-from-behind win.

In the second game, Magnolia-FEU streaked to its sixth straight victory with a 56-44 hammering of Welcoat Paints to remain second spot at 8-3.

RJ Rizada led the Wiards balanced attack with 12 points.

Welcoat stayed in fourth place with a 5-5 card, while Toyota Otis-Letran fell to sixth at 4-7.

Montaña banked on a a second half surge after trailing by as much as 16 points, 33-17, in the second quarter. Compton and Ariel Capus shot key triples in a 14-6 outburst that put the Jewels within striking distance, 39-37, from a 33-23 halftime deficit.

The Jewels then turned to Al Vergara, who scored all of his eight points in the final quarter, to fuel their late run. Another Compton trey lifted them within 50-49, less than four minutes remaining.

The Knights tried to repel the Jewels' rally behind Aaron Aban, who lifted them up at 54-53, with only 49.7 seconds remaining. But Vergara later found Guerrero wide-open at the right flank for the winning triple.

Magnolia-FEU broke a 40-40 deadlock with a 9-0 assault for a 49-40 advantage towards the two-minute mark.

The scores:

First game

MONTAÑA 57—Salvador 16, Vergara 8, Capus 7, Compton 7, Espiritu 4, Baguion 4, Magpayo 4, Juntilla 4, Guerrero 3, Mercado 0, Dela Cuesta 0, Junio 0.

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 54—Macapagal 13, Aban 11, Andaya 9, Daa 6, Aldave 5, Alcaraz 4, Abadia 2, Dula 2, Rodriguez 1, Piñera 1, Bautista 0, Coronel 0.

Quarters: 9-16, 23-33, 39-45, 57-54.

Second game

MAGNOLIA-FEU 56—Rizada 12, Santos 10, Miranda 7, Catli 6, Misolas 6, Isip 5, Jones 4, Ybañez 2, Raneses 2, Yabut 2, Co 0.

WELCOAT 44—Tolomia 15, Reyes 10, Ortiguerra 5, Washington 4, Dy 3, Sta. Maria 3, Tan 2, Gamboa 2, Yee 0, Estrada 0.

Quarters: 12-6, 21-24, 40-36, 56-44.

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Wildcats, Dovelets post thrilling wins

GAMES TODAY
(*EAC Gym*)
9 a.m. PMI vs RTU (women)
10:30 a.m. CDSL vs DLSU-Dasmariñas (women)
12 nn EAC vs PUP (women)
1:30 p.m. EAC vs CDSL (jr)
3 p.m. Arellano vs RTU (jr)
4:30 p.m. PUP vs Olivarez (jr)

THE NATIONAL College of Business and Arts Wildcats and the St. Francis Dovelets pulled off down-the-wire victories yesterday in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament at the EAC gym.

George de la Cruz and Raymund Bacsal scored the winning charities in the last three seconds to lift the Wildcats to a 63-61 triumph over the La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots.

On the other hand, Richard Cruz scored a barreling shot with 28 ticks to go to carry the Dovelets past Arellano High School, 97-75, in an unprecedented three-overtime showdown in the junior division.

Eric Tingzon showed the way with 15 points before he fouled out in the last two minutes, as the Wildcats joined the Dasmariñas Patriots into the quarterfinals in Group B.

Arnold Arellano made 28 points for the Dovelets, who improved their semifinal chances with their 5-1 slate.

The Colegio de San Lorenzo Griffins prevailed over FEATI, 79-54, to improve their slate in Group A to 4-1.

Rizal Tech defeated Emilio Aguinaldo HS, 83-51, in another junior tiff.

UAAP tankers capture three more golds

LUICA DACANAY booked a new games record as Team UAAP-Philippines earned three more gold medals after three days of competition in the 12th Asean University Games Friday in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Dacanay, the 17-year-old freshman at the University of the Philippines who owns two SEA Games bronze medals, clocked one minute and 8.39 seconds for a new games record in winning the women's 100-meter backstroke.

Evan Grabador, also of UP, topped the men's 100 backstroke and De La Salle's Benjamin Uy struck in the men's 100 freestyle for the Philippines, which has now recorded its best performance ever in the biennial multisport event.

With seven golds, UAAP-Philippines surpassed the three golds clinched by its 2002 counterpart.

Moving on

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CAN the rules of golf disqualify someone for putting up not just one but two powerhouse teams in the Fil-Am Golf Invitational?

I pose the question as a member of the tournament's Rules Committee for the third straight year in the company of Chief Referee "Insan" Taby Tabaniag, Butch Brodette and Jake Ayson.

I'm sure you know the answer, fellas: An emphatic no. And the answer, being absolute and final, can never be questioned even by tournament co-chairmen Anthony de Leon and Bong Vilches, the general managers of Fil-Am hosts Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay, respectively.

Thus, with the no for an answer, that effectively acquits Tommy Manotoc, definitely the man of the hour in the 55th edition of the world-renowned Fil-Am golf.

Breaking a three-year vow never to return to the fabled Fil-Am tournament, Tommy Manotoc brushed aside pride, swallowed his ego and returned to the event that helped build the aura surrounding his name the past three decades or so.

He did not only renew ties with buddies of old, he reentered the portals of Fil-Am brandishing two teams with credentials that make gamblers cringe in fear.

Why, even his Am Championship Division team roster read like a lineup also suited for Fil Championship Division play.

In short, Tommy Manotoc snared virtually the cream of the crop of the entire national training pool of golfers when nobody's looking. For that, he deserves a gold medal for creativity, if not resourcefulness.

With today's final round left to play in both the Championship Divisions of the Fil and Am, it's become almost academic: Tommy Manotoc's Nike Golf looked set to wrap up the twin crowns. They've built virtual title-clinching margins the past three days that if Tommy and his talent-laden boys had started uncorking the champagne bottle last night, they'd be justified.

Two things can be culled from Tommy's latest caper:

One, Nike Golf's explosive debut might trigger yet a massive rebuilding move by deposed champion Mizuno-DHL for next year's event while at the same time, creating the prospect of luring Taylor Made-adidas into joining the Fil-Am in 2005. The golf war that I had predicted this year went kaput as Mizuno-DHL's players proved simply no match against Nike Golf's array of parbusters mostly coming from the NGAP's pool of talents. Should all three golf equipment-making companies be present next year—arading players of equal talent and skill—then we can look forward to a real golf war in 2005.

Two, the 55-year-old Tommy Manotoc, in deciding to return to the tournament, might have finally realized the folly of his BCC veranda outburst of three years ago over a rules dispute, resulting in his boycott of the Fil-Am—a move described as un-sportsmanlike conduct of the first degree and unnecessarily putting a blot to his name. Taby and Jake were at the receiving end of Tommy's uncalled for fury then but the guys had long forgiven, forgotten about it.

Oh well, yes, past is past and, as the time-tested adage tells us, life goes on, has got to move on. And, as the kids sang it in the immortal film, "The Sound of Music," adieu! adieu!

Till next year, fellas.

***

FASTBREAK. I salute IPI's Ria Bisuna for maintaining her expert handling of the scoring system of the Fil-Am Golf Invitational for the third straight year. Aided by U-Bix's state-of-the-art computers and copying machines, Ria has made life easy for everyone involved in the running of the tournament, including Nanette Filler and Tonette Serafica, who both served—continue serving—with distinction to make Anthony de Leon's job at BCC the past two weeks a walk in the park. Cheers!

RED STAR Rising (left) gallops to victory in last year's Presidential Gold Cup race. PDI PHOTO

₱2.4-M RACE

Red Star Rising eyes repeat in PGC today

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

RED Star Rising was nary a blip on the Presidential Gold Cup radar screen last year.

But today, during the 32nd running of what is considered as the country's most prestigious horse race, the handsome chestnut colt would be a marked galloper, each of his rivals bent on stopping him from scoring a repeat victory.

"Alam ko lahat sa amin nakatingin. Pero malaki ang tiwala ko sa sakay ko (I know all eyes are on us. But I've got a lot of faith in my horse)," said veteran Manolito Daquis, whose bump-and-grind riding style is expected to be flashed anew when he partners the Francis and Michael Trillana-owned runner again in the 2,050-meter outing.

Twelve other local-bred horses are entered in this year's edition of the P2.37-million PGC and among them, 2003 runner-up West Bound, is tipped as Red Star Rising's biggest threat for the P1.5-million winner's prize.

Also joining the fray are West Bound's coupled bet Cover Girl, top 3-year-old colt Empire King, 2002 PGC champion Free Wind, veteran Lyonnais, Dandansoy, Don Paolo, Moab, Kokopelli, Paramount, Diktador and War Hero.

It was the big fighting heart of Red Star Rising, then running as a longshot, and Daquis' reliability when it comes to stretch driving that spelled their win in last year's PGC where West Bound, impressive after winning the first two legs of the Triple Crown, narrowly lost as the top choice.

"He's in good shape. *Sana makalusot uli* (I hope he makes it again)," Francis Trillana, a former racing commissioner, said of the Khozaam-Ito's Choice progeny.

Red Star Rising proved his triumph in the 2003 PGC was for real when he ruled the Open Championship, also that year, and then captured the 2004 First Gentleman's Cup in April.

He was given a much-deserved rest at the Trillanas' Ranchito San Gabriel in Batangas then came back from a 7-month rest last Nov. 2, running in the barrier trial. Twelve days later, he won a class division race as if he was never laid off at all and then flexed his muscles again in the barrier last Dec. 7 for his final preparation for today's assignment.

If he prevails, Red Star Rising will join Fair and Square (1981-82), Sun Dancer (1989-90), Bulldozer (1996-97) and Wind Blown (2000-2001) as back-to-back winners of the classic being held annually to honor the country's chief executive.

Like Red Star Rising, Free Wind is also aiming for a repeat win but the top weight of 59 kilos and his so-so runs in his previous campaigns might go against him this time around.

Aside from West Bound, Cover Girl and Empire King might also loom big today as well as the rejuvenated Lyonnais, battle-tested Dandansoy, and the dangerous-when-in-front Don Paolo and Moab.

Cover Girl and Empire King are fresh from victories in their respective 3-year-old divisions recently, while the 6-year-old Lyonnais, making his third PGC campaign, is coming into the race a big winner in the Marho Classic.

Dandansoy has always been a consistent placer in major races, while Don Paolo and Moab both have the speed to baffle the stayers.

Runner-up in the race gets P500,000, third placer P250,000 and fourth placer P125,000.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to grace the event. Also expected to attend are Philracom chief Jimmy Dilag and his commissioners as well as the country's other high-ranking racing officials.

RACING AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Nothing to Declare 2. Concorde/Hellfire 3. Hazmagic 4. Tres Jeune
Race 2—1. Carmelita 2. Money for Shellex 3. Fair Urduja 4. Rockwell
Race 3—1. Trouble Master 2. Fine Offer 3. Front Page
Race 4—1. The Magician 2. Formidable Ella 3. Security Star 4. Nitty Gritty
Race 5—1. Batang Cabu 2. Sham Sham 3. Wild Orphan 4. Roppongi
Race 6—1. Decidido 2. Streisand 3: Silver Eagle 4. Rivaldo
Race 7—1. Red Star Rising 2. Lyonnais 3. Empire King 4. Cover Girl/West Bound 5. Dandansoy
Race 8—1. King Size 2. Real Triompho 3. Federal Court 4. Hurry Prince
Race 9—1. Queen Banana/Jajie 2. Speed Admiral 3. Dynasty 4. Top of D Line 5. Gold Money
Race 10—1. Salamat 2 Reporter 3 Stradivarius 4. Centra
Race 11—1. Bunker Buster 2. Pandora 3. King's Choice 4. Jedi 5. Daldalera
Race 12—1. Hazit Coming 2. Pyramid Relaunch 3. Yokozuna 4. Sir Guguy
Race 13—1. Scud Missile 2. Thywillbedone 3. Casanova 4. Showtime Lady 5. Andee's Gold
Race 14—1. Take Ten 2. Carolina Belle 3. Habagat 4. Husay Nari Miss You 5. Macho Guwapito 6: Native Talent

Philracom's drive vs EIA gets horsemen's support

CONTRARY to the claim of three horse owners lobbying against the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom's) intensive drive against the dreaded Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), the various sectors of the local horse racing industry remain solidly behind the current leadership of the Philracom.

The leaders of the major racing sectors, including Manila Jockey Club president Alfonso Reyno, Philippine Racing Club EVP and COO Ramon Ereñeta, Marho president Aristeo Puyat, Philtobo president Bienvenido Niles, Klub Don Juan de Manila VP Jun Almeda, Trainers Association president Rogelio Catajan, Jockeys Association president Manolito Daquis, as well as Jess Cantos of the newly formed association of off-track betting stations, have expressed unanimous and unequivocal support to the present Philracom administration under chair Jimmy Dilag.

"It is unfortunate that certain misguided elements of the industry have resorted to peddling misinformation behind the well-meaning drive against EIA, a debilitating horse disease that can potentially wreak havoc on the whole racing industry," according to Dilag.

In fact, as earlier reported, several lawmakers including Rep. Benhur Abalos (Mandaluyong), Rep. Luis Asistio (Caloocan), Rep. Mikey Arroyo (Pampanga), Rep. Abraham Mitra (Palawan) and Rep. Mark Cojuangco (Pangasinan) have similarly thrown their support to the Philracom's all-out campaign against the EIA virus.

"The so-called opposition against the Philracom program on EIA is being bankrolled by a motley group of horseowners led by Mssrs. Willy Dagan, lawyer Narciso Morales and Frisquito Araneta whose horses have tested positive for EIA and are therefore not permitted to compete or be stabled alongside EIA-free horses," Dilag explained.

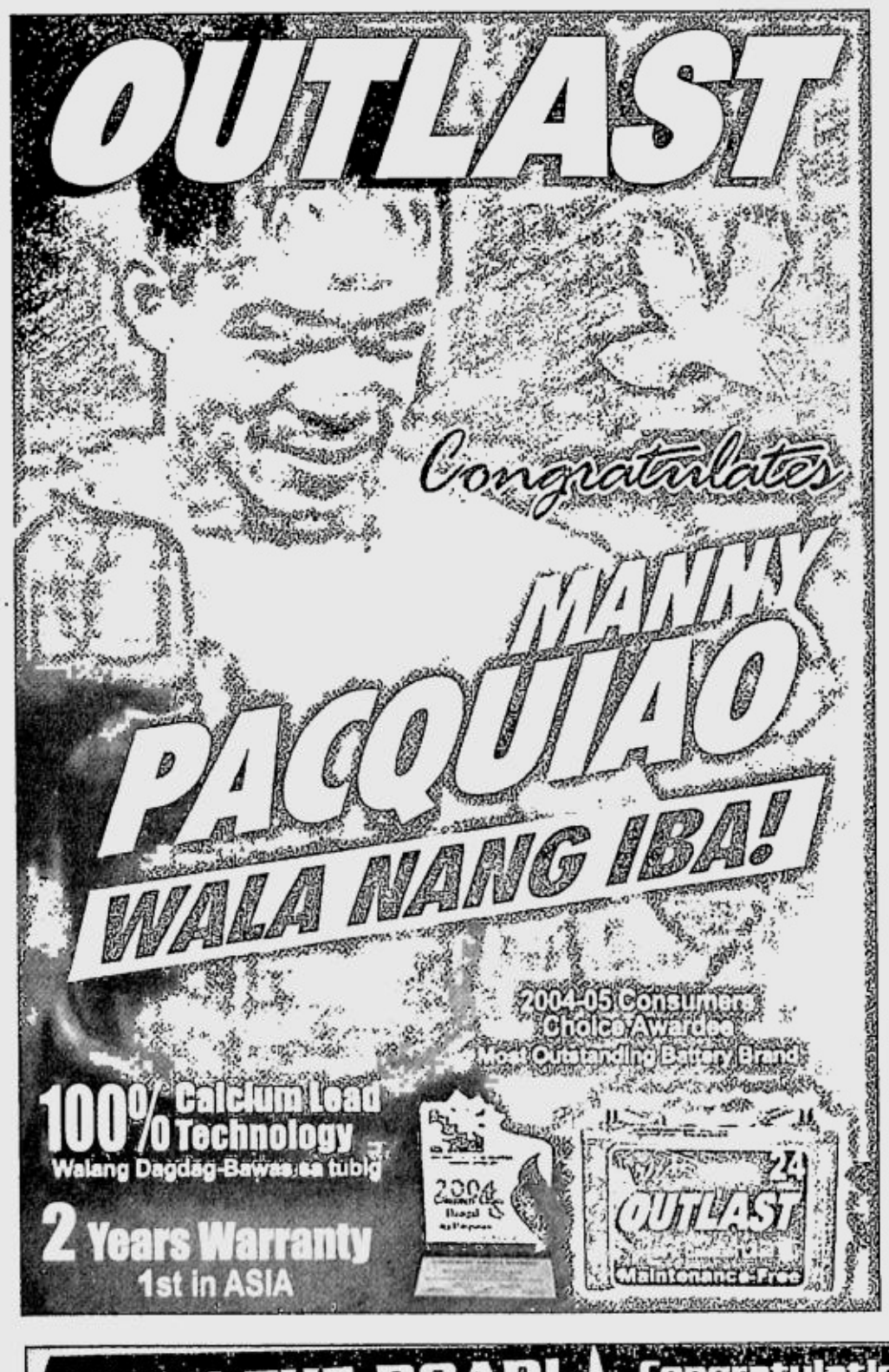
The same group of horseowners has recently tried to stop the implementation of the Philracom program by filing a petition for a temporary restraining order with the Makati RTC. The said petition was eventually denied by the court for lack of merit.

"Having lost the battle in the proper forum, they have now resorted to extrajudicial means to further their own interest by staging mock rallies involving *hakot* protesters who are not even direct industry participants," Dilag noted.

Since the start of the Philracom drive against the spread of the EIA virus, more than 200 race horses stabled at the two operational race tracks have tested positive for EIA infection and were automatically barred from racing.

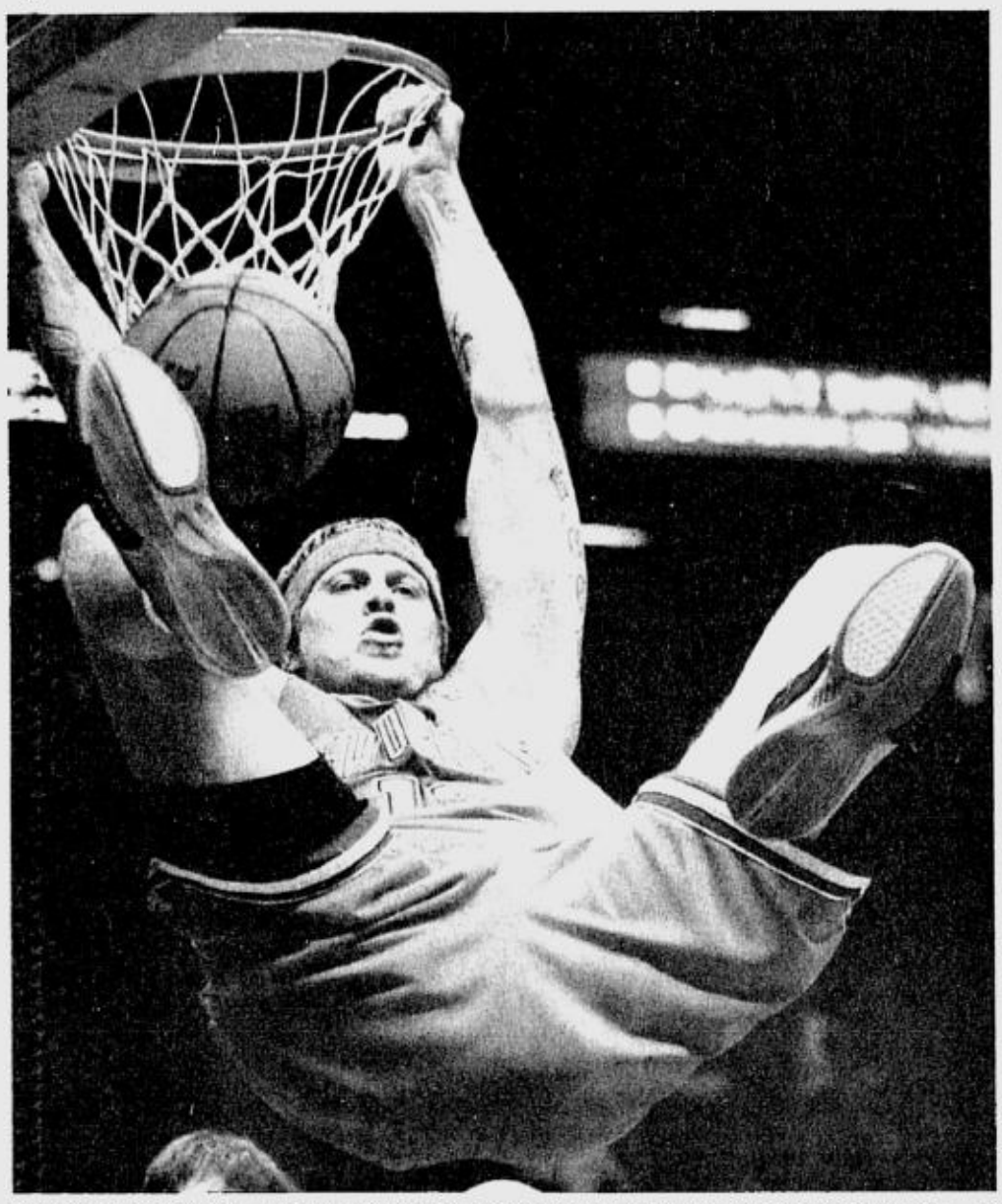
Dilag also took exception to the group's erroneous claim that the Department of Agriculture (DA) has classified EIA as negligible horse illness.

On the contrary, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), an agency directly under the supervision of the DA, considers EIA as an incurable and highly contagious equine disease that needs immediate control and eradication.



PHILIPPINE D
SundayS

Wizards, Magic shrink foes



NEW ORLEANS' Chris Anderson dunks the ball in the fourth quarter against New Jersey. AP

Wade, Shaq turn up the Heat; Kidd foils former head coach

WASHINGTON—Brendan Haywood atoned for two missed freethrows by converting a three-point play off the Wizards' 27th offensive rebound with 7.1 seconds remaining Friday, giving Washington a 106-104 victory over the New York Knicks.

"Missing those freethrows really hurt. You have to keep your mind clear, because you never know how it's going to come back," Haywood said. "Tonight it just came back on me, and I was able to make the play."

Haywood's first points of the second half came after he missed a pair from the line with 55 seconds remaining.

In Toronto, Carmelo Anthony had 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and Nene had a season-high 21 points to lead Denver to a 101-87 rout of the Raptors.

Kenyon Martin added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won four straight.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade narrowly missed a triple-double and Shaquille O'Neal scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as Miami downed Memphis, 92-84.

O'Neal made four of his five shot attempts and added two assists in the final 12 minutes, a stark difference from the middle two quarters when the Grizzlies held him scoreless and he missed the only three shots he tried.

Wade had 26 points, nine assists and nine rebounds—coming up just short in a bid for what would have been the fifth triple-double in Heat history and just the second in the last 10 seasons.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd hit a go-ahead basket early in overtime, as the Nets denied former coach Byron Scott a win in his return to New Jersey with a 94-91 victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

The Nets rallied from a seven-point deficit with 2:10 to play in the fourth quarter and sent the Hornets to their season-high ninth straight loss and 17th in 18 games.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, rookie Josh Smith replaced Kenny Anderson at point guard and had career highs of 12 points and four blocks in his first NBA start as Atlanta stunned Detroit, 88-72.

The Hawks, who led by as many as 29, won for just the second time in 12 games and held Detroit to a franchise record for fewest points in a home game.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored a season-high 35 points with 18 rebounds and nine assists to lead Minnesota over Sacramento, 113-105.

In Chicago, Allen Iverson had 23 points and 10 assists, and Samuel Dalembert had 13 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots in his first start of the season for Philadelphia, which ended an eight-game road losing streak with a 93-88 decision over Chicago.

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 21 points and Mike James added 16 as Milwaukee handed Indiana its sixth straight loss, 95-86.

The victory, Milwaukee's second over Indiana in four days, helped the Bucks (6-11) avoid their worst starting record in a decade, a 5-12 mark to begin the 1994-95 season.

In Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire came close to the first triple-double of his career with 36 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, and Phoenix edged New Orleans, 115-106.

The victory was the Suns' fourth in a row, 13th in their last 14 games and gave them a 17-3 record—tying Seattle for the best in the NBA—on the one-year anniversary of Mike D'Antoni taking over as head coach.

In Oakland, California, Steve Francis scored a season-high 36 points and also finished with eight rebounds and eight assists as Orlando defeated the Warriors, 113-109, for its fifth win in six games.

Francis shot 11-for-26 and made all 14 of his freethrows, carrying the load as Grant Hill sat out with a badly bruised right shin.

Tony Battie had 16 points and matched his career high with 15 rebounds, Cuttino Mobley added 15 points and Hedo Turkoglu scored 14.

In Salt Lake City, Matt Harpring scored 17 points, including six in overtime, as Utah beat Portland, 92-87, to snap a six-game losing skid and avoided its first seven-game skid since 1981-82. *AP*

MIAMI center Shaquille O'N
Memphis forward Stromile S

Ortiz signs with Arizona

ANAHEIM, California—Just down the road from the Disney's Magic Kingdom, major league teams toyed with trades and focused on free agents as the winter meetings began Friday.

Russ Ortiz, Steve Finley and Richard Hidalgo found new teams, though there were no trades announced.

Arizona, coming off a 111-loss season, set the free-agent pace for the second straight day, agreeing to a $33-million, four-year contract with Ortiz in an effort to complement Randy Johnson in its starting rotation.

Finley, who started last season with the Diamondbacks and finished it with the Dodgers, moved down Interstate 5, agreeing to a $14-million, two-year contract with the Anaheim Angels.

The Texas Rangers agreed to a $5-million, one-year deal with right fielder Richard Hidalgo, who split last season between Houston and the New York Mets. And the Florida Marlins reached preliminary agreements with relievers Antonio Alfonseca and Todd Jones.

As for the biggest names, agents appeared to be holding back, waiting for the market to rise even higher.

"When you look at last year's attendance growth, all those things put more money in the marketplace," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said.

Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltre, Jason Varitek and Derek Lowe are represented by Scott Boras, whose clients have not reached deals until later in the offseason in recent years.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman expected to talk Friday night with Boras and with other top agents during the weekend, including Scott Shapiro, who represents Carl Pavano. Cashman also said Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre and staff ace Mike Mussina were to have called Pavano in the past week.

"He just needs some time to see where his heart is," Shapiro said.

Anaheim, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit and Seattle also are competing for Pavano, who pretty much has ruled out returning to the Marlins.

"At this point in time, I'd say it's very slim," Shapiro said. "Ultimately, I don't know if they have the financial resources to compete as the market has matured to a certain level."

New York is close to an agreement with Jaret Wright on a $21-million, three-year deal, and Cashman would like to get at least one other starting pitcher this weekend. He's been talking with Eric Milton, remains interested in Pedro Martinez and said he received a telephone call Thursday from a familiar voice—David Wells. *AP*

Tiger and Monty take top spot

THOUSAND OAKS, California—Colin Montgomerie walked off the 18th green in a tie for the lead with Tiger Woods at the Target World Challenge on Friday, and someone told him the tournament was in his hands.

Montgomerie demurred. "It's in Tiger's hands," he said with a smile.

Seven years after they were first paired together in the final group going into the weekend, Woods and Montgomerie established themselves as the front-runners with stretches of great play and minimal mistakes to each shoot 5-under 66.

Montgomerie birdied five of his first seven holes, then had to scramble for a bogey on the 18th hole to salvage a share of the lead at Sherwood Country Club. Woods made five birdies in a six-hole stretch in the middle of his round, disappointed in making only one birdie on the par 5s.

They were at 9-under 133 and were two shots clear of Jim Furyk (68) and Jay Haas (66).

Woods and Montgomerie first played together in the third round of the 1997 Masters, Woods' professional debut in the majors. Woods had a three-shot lead going into the weekend, but Montgomerie felt he might have the advantage having contended in more majors.

It was such a blowout—Woods shot 65, Montgomerie a 74—that the Scot came into the media center at Augusta National without invitation to give his take on the 21-year-old Woods.

"There is no chance—we're all human beings here—no chance humanly possible that Tiger Woods is going to lose this tournament," Monty gushed.

Woods, who went on to win that Masters by a record 12 shots, remembers the moment well.

"He basically said I didn't have much of a chance because of my experience level," Woods said. "But I was playing well. I said to Fluff (his caddie at the time), 'He may have said all those things, but he hadn't won a major, either.'"

TIGER Woods hits a tee shot on the 16th hole.

No rivalry

Don't get the idea there is a rivalry between the two.

Woods said they have been friends ever since, and he thinks so highly of Montgomerie that he called him personally and invited him to his Target World Challenge, mainly out of respect to the Scot's awesome Ryder Cup record.

"He outplayed everybody on our team," Woods said. "What he has done is impressive. Plus, don't forget his resumé with seven Order of Merits. No one has ever come close to that."

Monty has raved about Woods ever since, although that doesn't change his plans for the weekend.

"He's still intimidating, and that's not criticism; that's a compliment," Montgomerie said.

More gorgeous weather in the Conejo Valley produced another round of perfect scoring, and all but one player in the 16-man field broke par.

Montgomerie had the perfect start, hitting the middle of every fairway and dropping his iron shots into 8 feet. He had a chance to shoot 30 on the front until missing a 6-foot birdie putt on No. 8.

Woods started stuffing his approaches on No. 5, never having to make a putt longer than 10 feet until he was at 9 under and in the lead alone. Woods dropped a shot on the 14th by going over the green, but Montgomerie regained the lead with birdies on both par 5s on the back nine.

"This is the way I played in Japan," Woods, referring to an eight-shot win at the Dunlop Phoenix last month for his only stroke-play victory this year. "I just didn't play the par 5s very well, or it could have been low."

Montgomerie avoided a big number despite hitting a 7-iron into the hazard on the 18th. He took a drop and hit wedge to 3 feet for bogey. That kept him in a share of the lead, and put him in the last group with an old friend.

Thai leads Volvo Masters

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng fired a five-under-par 67 on Saturday to share the third-round lead with Taiwan's Wang Ter-chang at the Volvo Masters of Asia.

Prayad's compatriot, Chawalit Plaphol, birdied his last four holes for a 68 to earn third place, two off the pace, leaving overnight leader Jyoti Randhawa of India in third place after a poor 74 in an error-ridden round at the Asian Tour's season-ending event.

Wang scrambled to a 69 to share the top spot with Prayad on 12-under-par 204 at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club.

Prayad was in his element with a bogey-free round but needed to make two par saves on 16 and 17 to put himself in the running for the title on Sunday.

Prayad said he was "99-percent confident" of ending his four-year title drought in Malaysia.

"Everything worked nicely," said the Thai. "I was aiming for a four- or five-under round, so I'm happy to shoot a 67."

After short birdies on the first, second, fifth, 12th and 13th holes, Prayad gave a gutsy display to keep his lead, rolling in an eight-footer on 16 for par. He then holed a 20-footer at the next hole to stay bogey-free.

Wang, whose last victory was at the Myanmar Open in 1999, moved into contention after notching four birdies, including a 30-footer on 13, against a bogey.

"I missed a lot of drives and my iron play was not accurate," said Wang. "I said yesterday that a top-three finish would be nice and I'm still aiming for that."

Chawalit started slowly before coming on strong in the last six holes, shooting five birdies and a bogey.

Defending champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand finally found form Saturday, carding his week's best of 68 to lie for 10th place on 210, six behind the leaders.

Simon Yates of Scotland slipped to 19th place with a 73, leaving Thongchai in good shape to win the Asian Tour Order of Merit title Sunday. *AP*

SHORT COURSE

German breaks 50 back record

VIENNA, Austria—Germany's Thomas Rupprath set a world record in winning the 50-meter backstroke at European Short Course Championships on Friday, cutting four-hundredths off the previous mark.

Rupprath completed the distance in 23.27 seconds, breaking Australian Matt Welsh's 2-year-old record.

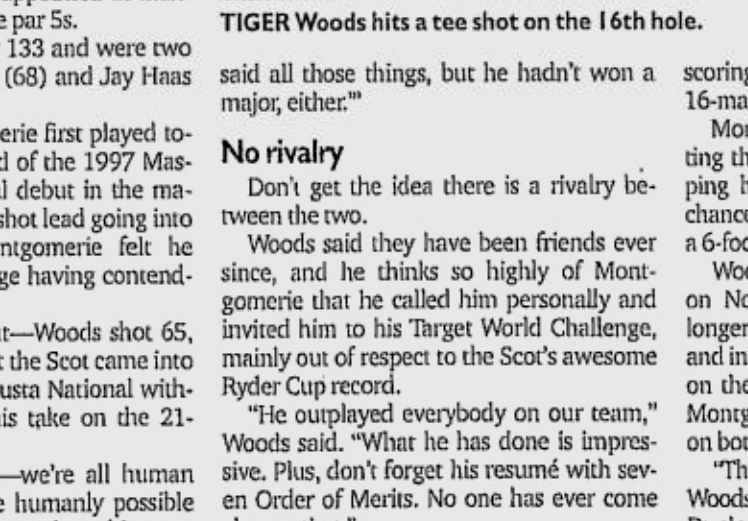
The 27-year-old Rupprath, who won the 100 butterfly a half hour earlier, easily beat Ukrainian Vyacheslav Shyrshov, who was second in 24.50, and compatriot Helge Folkert Meeuw, who was third in 24.52. Rupprath had set a European record in qualifying with a time of 23.34.

"It's unbelievable. Not only did I win two medals in one day, but also set a new world record," Rupprath said.

Hungary's Laszlo Cseh set a European record in 400 individual medley in four minutes, 3.96 seconds. The victory ahead of Italian Luca Marin (4:05.93) and Russian Igor Berezutskiy (4:08.91), was in addition to the silver he won earlier Friday in the 200 IM.

In other events, Ukraine's Kateryna Zubkova defeated German Antje Buschschulte in the women's 100 backstroke for the biggest upset of the women's events.

Buschschulte was a second faster than all her rivals in qualifying, but Zubkova stayed with the favorite from the start and won in 58.58 seconds, 12-hundredths of a second ahead of Buschschulte and 18-hundredths ahead of Louise Ornstedt of Denmark. *AP*



THOMAS Rupprath starts the men's 50-m backstroke race at the European Short Course Swimming Championships. REUTERS

Golf lege escapes

VIRGINIA WATER, England
teros has escaped punishmen
leged assault on another Spani

Ballesteros, 47, had
Spanish tour official Jose M
at an amateur tournamen
ago at Ballesteros' home club
Spain.

Zamora, who was playing
also a tournament direct
pean tour.

The incident apparently
slow-playing warnings

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Klitschko eyes legitimacy vs Williams

LAS VEGAS—Vitali Klitschko tries to make his claim to be the legitimate heavyweight champion when he defends his WBC title for the first time against Danny Williams, who made a name for himself by beating Mike Tyson.

A spectacular performance by either on Saturday could vault the winner to the top of a pack of otherwise undistinguished heavyweight champions.

Both realize what is at stake in the heaviest heavyweight title fight ever.

"It is very important that I win this fight," Klitschko said. "I know it will not be easy and I am prepared for that. But I know I must win."

Klitschko (34-2, 33 knockouts) defends the title he won in April against Corrie Sanders for the first time against Williams, who just 11 months ago lost the British heavyweight title to a journeyman named Michael Sprott.

Williams was plucked from obscurity to be Tyson's comeback opponent in July, then shocked everyone by weathering a storm from Tyson and coming back to knock him out in the fourth round.

His reward for the win was not merely financial. Wanting to strike while the Tyson win was still fresh in the minds of boxing fans, Klitschko's promoters picked him for the champion's first title defense.

"Danny Williams destroyed my dream of fighting Mike Tyson," Klitschko said. "Now I will destroy his dream of being the heavyweight champion."

Oddsmakers like Klitschko's chances, making him a 4-1 favorite in the fight at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino.

Neither fighter will have any trouble finding the other in the 20-foot (6-meter) ring. The 6-foot-7 (2.01-m) Klitschko weighed in at 250 pounds (112.5 kilograms) on Thursday, while the 6-foot-2 (1.88-m) Williams was 270 lb (121.5 kg).

The combined weights break the record for the heaviest title fight set by Klitschko and Lennox Lewis in June 2003 in a fight Klitschko was winning before being stopped by cuts after six rounds.

Williams (32-3, 27 knockouts) has watched tapes of that fight and knows he must find a way to get inside and take the fight to a heavyweight who still carries the unorthodox Eastern European style he grew up with in Ukraine. *AP*

VITALI Klitschko (left) is the oddsmakers' pick against Danny Williams. REUTERS

eal forces his way past the outstretched defense of wift at the American Airlines Arena. AFP

IOC asks docs: Fight 'sudden death'

GENEVA—The International Olympic Committee said Friday that doctors should improve monitoring of athletes in an attempt to reduce fatal heart attacks during competition.

At a meeting at the Olympic body's headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, the IOC medical commission recommended that all athletes under 35 be questioned about their personal medical and family history when they start competitive activities. The aim is to try and diagnose potential abnormalities which could cause heart attacks.

"We do not want to see athletes dying on the pitch," IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch said.

Undiagnosed cardiac problems cause about 90 percent of sudden deaths in sport. Two out of every 100,000 athletes between 12-35 years old die of heart attacks every year, compared to 0.7 per 100,000 in the general population, the IOC said.

"Even if we have 1 percent, 1.1 percent, 0.9 percent, that is a concern," Schamasch said.

High-profile

In the latest high-profile case in October, soccer player Serginho died of heart failure during a Brazilian league match. His team, Sao Caetano, has been docked 24 points and two club officials have been suspended after a court found that the club doctor had covered up documents that proved Serginho had a bad heart.

Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe died during soccer's 2003 Confederations Cup in France, also of a heart attack.

Sudden death from cardiac arrest happens in all types of sports, but little research has been carried out into its causes. The IOC hopes that boosted testing will help physicians to find out more and prevent deaths.

"We will probably and surely find some abnormalities . . . which may be able to reduce the number of deaths," Schamasch said.

He explained that the commission had not discussed possible links between heart attacks and doping, adding that the testing process would soon show "if something is linked to the use of prohibited substances." *AP*

t US sprinter gets 8-year drug ban

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—American sprinter Michelle Collins has been hit with an eight-year ban for doping offences despite never having tested positive for banned substances.

In what is believed to be a landmark ruling, the North American Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decided on the sanction at a hearing on Friday after acting on a decision by the United States Anti Doping Agency (Usada) during the summer.

Collins, a former world indoor 200-m champion, is the first athlete to be suspended without a positive drugs test or an admission of drugs use.

Usada, who decided to press charges against Collins in the summer, has built its cases on verbal evidence given to the federal investigation into the Balco laboratory doping scandal rather than test results.

Collins' ban is due to her connection to the federal inquiry into the Balco scandal.

She has been found guilty of using performance-enhancing drugs, including the banned blood booster EPO (erythropoietin).

Collins, who will be 41 when the ban ends, has always protested her innocence, however CAS on Friday upheld Usada's findings which will virtually end the track star's career.

"The Usada has proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Collins took EPO, the testosterone/epitestosterone cream and THG," said a CAS statement.

"Collins used these substances to enhance her performance and elude the drug testing that was available at the time."

Collins forfeits all competition results dating back to Feb. 1, 2002, including gold medals from the 200 m at the World Indoors and USA Indoor Championships in 2003. *AFP*

nd Ballesteros punishment

ve Balles- for an al- h golfer. n-in with a Zamora e months n northern

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med from a handed

out to Ballesteros during tournaments in 2003. At a tournament in Madeira in 2003, Ballesteros was photographed arguing with Zamora.

"We do not condone what took place but there are mitigating circumstances for an incident so totally out of character during a career stretching more than 30 years," said George O'Grady, who takes over as PGA European Tour executive director on Jan. 1, 2005.

"There was an incident and both Seve and Jose Maria regret that it took place." *AP*

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• Hofner classic HAC304	5,900.00	4,425.00	less 25%
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• SX folk cut way DG-25C/NA	3,890.00	2,917.50	less 25%
• SX folk DG-25CVT/NA w/ pick up	5,020.00	3,765.00	less 25%
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• Fernando steel MG-94CS	2,350.00	1,762.50	less 25%
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• Applause AA-27/RB	10,730.00	8,047.50	less 25%
• Applause AA-27/SB	10,730.00	8,047.50	less 25%
• Applause AE-126/4	17,300.00	12,975.00	less 25%
• Ovation tangent T-247/5	36,036.00	27,027.00	less 25%
• Ovation tangent MOB-47/BSB	40,355.00	30,266.25	less 25%
• Ovation W597/4G	114,570.00	85,927.50	less 25%

VIOLINS	Reg. Price	Sale Price	
• Cremona SV100/102 1/8	3,715.00	2,095.00	less 43%
• Cremona SV100/102 1/4	3,715.00	2,095.00	less 43%
• Cremona SV100/102 1/2	4,210.00	2,495.00	less 40%
• Cremona SV100/102 3/4	4,210.00	2,495.00	less 40%
• Cremona SV100/102 4/4	4,210.00	2,495.00	less 40%
• Hofner H-V040 4/4	5,750.00	4,312.50	less 25%
• Hofner H-V060 4/4	6,900.00	5,175.00	less 25%

ZILDJIAN CYMBALS	Reg. Price	Sale Price	
• 14" Rock Top HiHat	9,400.00	7,050.00	less 25%
• 16" Thin Crash	9,520.00	7,140.00	less 25%
• 18" Medium Crash Brilliant	10,700.00	8,025.00	less 25%
• 18" Medium Thin Crash	11,200.00	8,400.00	less 25%
• 15" K Custom Dark Crash Thin	11,027.00	8,270.25	less 25%

DRUMS	Reg. Price	Sale Price	
• Fernando drum outfit PVS16	17,475.00	13,106.25	less 25%
• Fernando drum set NS-200L	22,200.00	16,650.00	less 25%
• Trak drum outfit MX-122LX ZBS3P ZBT pre packed 3pc	27,334.00	19,900.00	less 27%
• Trak drum outfit MX-563L ZBS3P ZBT pro packed 4pc	39,020.00	28,900.00	less 25%
• Sonor drum outfit FSH125 ZBS3P ZBT pro pre packed 4pc	44,990.00	31,900.00	less 28%
• Zildjian Drumsticks Regular	530.00	397.50	less 25%

EFFECTS	Reg. Price	Sale Price	
• Zoom 505 guitar effects	5,500.00	4,125.00	less 25%
• Zoom 606 guitar effects	7,120.00	5,340.00	less 25%

Promo period is from December 12 to January 15 of 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3305 Series of 2004.

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Thailand sending bets to Young Guns golf

REGIONAL power Thailand is sending entries to the forthcoming Young Guns 2004 junior golf championships set Dec. 21-22 at the exciting Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

The Thais will be joining earlier confirmed bets from Hong Kong, Macau, Korea, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden and the United States, who will battle it out with Filipinos in the tournament featuring players 12 years and below.

The roster for the invitational tilt is close to breaching the 100-player mark as of yesterday according to event organizer Luigi Tabuena. Registration ends on Tuesday, Dec. 14, or when the desired number of at least 100 kids is achieved, whichever comes first.

Aside from crystal trophies for the top three finishers in each class, participants will get the chance to win attractive raffle prizes from generous event sponsors. Cellular phones, digital cameras, Game Boy and X Box units and many more will be raffled off.

The 54-hole competition is patterned after the annual US Kids World Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia with competitions in six different age-divisions for boys and girls: 12 years, 11, 10, 9 and 8 and under. A division for 6 and under will be added if there are enough entries.

Tabuena also said that tee-off for the official practice round on Dec. 20 will be made on a pre-registered basis. Players need to call up the event secretariat for a tee-time which will be strictly followed due to the big number of entries.

Tournament sponsors are International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), Smart Kids, Gatorade, Absolute Mineral Water, Golf Depot through Joey Mendoza, Egay San Luis, Provil, Share Exchange and Manila Southwoods. Bellevue in Alabang, is the official hotel.

Players are advised to fax registration forms to 809-8074 or mail to Share Exchange office at the 11th floor of FGU Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City. Inquiries can also be made at tels. 8505870-71.

ROSALES

DELASIN

Jenny back, to play with Delasin in WC

By Jong Arcano

LPGA champion Jennifer Rosales quietly slipped into town yesterday overloaded with not just eight *balikbayan* boxes full of presents for her family but interesting developments that make her next season full of exciting prospects.

"Let's party!" Rosales blurted to her mom Lourdes, brother Gerald and welcoming friends as soon as she arrived at their St. Ignatius Village home in Quezon City, obviously eager for a much-deserved rest after her best-ever season yet on the LPGA Tour, which was highlighted by a career breakthrough win.

"I'm just glad to be back, I've been dying to see my family the past few months already and finally I'm here with them," Rosales told the INQUIRER as she cuddled her favorite dogs Asia and Prada, who were flown in two days ahead of her due to strict regulation in the United States.

But the biggest news she had for the family was her scheduled pairing up with Fil-Am Dorothy Joy Delasin for the Ladies World Cup of Golf.

The World Cup will be played at Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate—the same course where Tiger Woods and Ernie Els had their dramatic playoff before the Presidents Cup ended in a draw last year—on Feb. 11-13, 2005.

What clinched the Philippine spot in the World Cup was Rosales' finishing 10th in the money list with winnings of more than $693,000.

The World Cup will be disputed over 54-holes of foursomes, better-ball and singles with a million dollars on offer.

According to Rosales, Delasin, a two-time LPGA winner, has been given the go-signal by the LPGA Tour to use her dual citizenship in carrying the Philippine tri-color in the Ladies World Cup without endangering her chances for the Solheim Cup, the biennial competition which pits the Americans against the Europeans.

"I've been told that everything's OK with her so we're meeting up in early February and prepare for the World Cup," said Rosales, who last teamed up with Dorothy to win the bronze medal in the 1998 Asian Games as amateurs.

"That should be exciting."

A hectic schedule of media interviews and special appearances awaits Rosales, who will be going around with two bodyguards provided her by PNP Chief Director Gen. Edgard Aglipay as proof of her celebrity status.

Meanwhile, Rosales will be on the cover of the the year-end glossy edition of the INQUIRER Golf Monthly which will come out on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

SPORTSWATCH

Nat'l drag racing kicks off in Davao

DAVAO CITY—The Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Racing Championship Series will kick off its Davao leg on Dec. 19 at the Speed City drag racing strip in Ma-a, Davao City. Dubbed as the Petron Blaze Shootout-Speed City Christmas National Drag Race, the event will feature race entries from Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos City, Cotabato and Davao. The event is organized by the Activity Asia Association and Davao Classic and Sports Car Club and sponsored by Petron Blaze and Ultron. Joining the event are race squads from Gaspeed (Manila), DGL (Cebu), Prodrive (Cagayan de Oro), Gensan Lightspeed (General Santos) and Davao squads—W. Autosports Network, Ground Image, Team Classic, Speed Limits and Vatos Locos.

Buncio lands 16th in Asean Cup

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Maiko Buncio of Mandaluyong was chosen as the country's lone representative in the 2nd Yamaha Asean Cup held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A former motocross rider, Buncio finished 16th place in the race participated in by 25 riders from various Asian countries. Prior to his first international competition, Buncio has been a frequent champion in several categories of the Carmona Circuit Races of Underbone motorcycles in Cavite for the past years. A high school student at the O.B. Montessori in Sta. Ana, Buncio started motocross riding at six years old. Maiko comes from a family of riders. His mentor is his father, Yoyong, a former motocross champion in the Philippines. Barney, his 13-year-old brother, is also following their footsteps. The Alfaros are the founders of the Philippine Scooter Federation, which now has some 2,500 members. Rolando Alfaro also founded the Mandaluyong Scooter Association.

UA-Pampanga cops volley crown

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga yesterday bagged the volleyball title with a 22-25, 25-19, 25-15, 17-25, 15-13 victory over Rizal Technological University in the 1st Men's National Collegiate Athletic Association (MNCAA), but was foiled by Lourdes School of Quezon City for the juniors cage crown at the RTU gym. Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite took third place over University of Asia & the Pacific, 24-26, 21-25, 25-17, 25-18, 15-9. Lourdes School of Quezon City routed UA-Pampanga, 102-81, to bag the junior basketball crown via a sweep of all its games.

Chester follows in his father's footsteps

FOR THE first time in the annals of the AMF Bowling World Cup, a son has followed in his father's footsteps as bearer of his country's colors. Chester King, the Philippines' entry in the men's division of the 2004 AMF Bowling World Cup being held in Singapore, is the son of Casiano "Cas" King, who bowled for the Philippines in the tournament 31 years ago. Jose "Popit" Puyat, chair of Puyat Sports, recalled that he and his wife, Bingle, accompanied "Cas" and Filipina entry Lilia Cowan to the 1973 AMF Bowling World Cup, which was also staged in Singapore. The Puyats have been sponsoring the country's participation in the AMF Bowling World Cup since 1967. This year, Puyat Sports has sent its general manager, Gilbert Gavino, and head bowling instructor, Caloy de Leon, to Singapore to give encouragement to Chester and Liza del Rosario, the Philippines' representative in the women's division. Attending the tournament, too, are the parents of Chester and Liza, and Steve Hontiveros, president of FIQ, the international governing body for bowling.

Women's beach volleyball on TV

GOLF POWER today continues with its special feature on the Toyota Balintawak Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge with two exciting matches in the elimination round. University of Asia and the Pacific faces Letran in the collegiate division while Philippine Air Force 1 meets College of St. Benilde A in the open division. The matches were played recently at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Golf Power is aired every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN-9 and is followed by the popular boxing show "Samsung's Fistorama" at 4 p.m. Fistorama is backed by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, Mapecon and PCSO.

Araneta hosts NCA 7-cock derby

BIG TIME cockfighting returns at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum on Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 14 and 16, with the staging of National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby to be hosted by engineer Frank Berin and Frankie Uy of Isabela. Participants are reminded to submit entries tomorrow from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928. Action starts with the 3-cock elimination on Tuesday featuring more than 60 fights. All qualifiers will advance to the finals on Thursday. Meanwhile, organizers of the World Slasher Cup 8-Cock International Derby scheduled on Jan. 18, 20 and 22, announced yesterday the confirmed participation of five topnotch breeders from the US. They are Joe Wolcott, the 2004 Cocker of the Year of Sunset Game Club in Louisiana, Dan Gray of Alabama, Roger Roberts, Larry Whitehead and Ray Alexander, Jorge "Nene" Araneta's longtime partner.

Elma wants another crack at SEA Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF SHE has her way, legendary trackster Elma Muros-Posadas would like to give it one more shot at the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Fresh from a triple-gold performance at the recent Asian Masters track and field championship in Thailand, the 37-year-old Muros-Posadas yesterday expressed desire to get a crack at the national team and compete before her countrymen one last time next year.

Her husband-coach Jojo Posadas said Muros can still win a medal in heptathlon and in the 4x100-meter relay despite her two-year retirement where she devoted her time rearing her two kids.

"She can't readily promise a gold, but she can land in the top three," said Posadas.

Muros-Posadas, winner of 15 SEA Games gold medals, can also provide inspiration to the national tracksters who have been the top performers for the country in the past two SEAGs.

MUROS-POSADAS

The Philippines won nine gold medals in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG in 2001 and eight in Vietnam last year.

Unfortunately, Muros-Posadas can no longer compete in her favorite long jump event now dominated by reigning SEAG champion Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and heir apparent Marestella Torres.

In Thailand, Muros-Posadas hit the headlines by dominating the long jump, century dash and 100-meter hurdles in the 35-39 age bracket. One newspaper described her as the "unfading golden girl."

This time, Elma won the long jump gold with a leap of 5.32 meters. She clocked 13.1 seconds in topping the 100 meters and 16.6 seconds in ruling the 100-m hurdles.

Muros-Posadas became the country's top trackster with the retirement of Lydia de Vega-Mercado, whose exploits highlighted the country's resurgence in athletics starting with the 1981 Manila SEA Games.

"It would be a big thrill for me to take part in the SEA Games to be held here for the third time," said Muros-Posadas, who still holds the SEAG long jump record of 6.52 meters she set in 1989.

Aside from the SEA countries, the Asian Masters also drew entries from Japan, Korea, China, Sri Lanka and India.

Reyes bags Class B plum, runner-up honors

REY Reyes of Auto Klasse capped the season by clinching the Class B crown and the runner-up plum of the National Touring Car Championship recently in the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Reyes, also supported by Tropical Ice Sparkling Water, GBSI, Jose Aliling Inc. and Matonetics Engine Dynamics, was actually a point behind the second-running Dominic Bon, 104-105, prior to the race but his more consistent performance pulled him through the tight race to wind up second overall to National Touring Car champion Jody Coseteng of Caltex Havoline-SMB Strong Ice.

"Bon really gave me a tough time," said Reyes. But I just stayed focused leaving him no chance to pass. I thanked God for this blessing, finishing second overall behind Coseteng is already a big honor."

Reyes, a businessman, clocked 31:31.594 in the 12-lap race or 0.458 seconds ahead of Bon.

REY Reyes of Autoklasse (car 11) pulls a sharp turn at the curve to keep safe distance from Philip Alvendia.

AF3 Championships: Pastor brothers shine

ENZO Pastor emerged the highest placed Filipino at fourth in the 2004 Asian Formula three Series drivers championship despite mechanical problems during the final leg of the series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas last Dec. 5.

The 2002 Asian Formula Renault champion driving for Fujitsu Ten Team Tom's Petron and sponsored by the PCVC-Department of Tourism, Petron, PLDT, Bench, Boysen- Mcgills and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, finished behind champion Christian Jones of Australia, second placer John O'hara of Ireland and Mark Goddard of United Kingdom.

Enzo fell prey to a host of technical difficulties that prevented him from catching the leaders. Unfortunately, it was the first time for him and the team to fine tune his F302 car.

Enzo said he had faster lap times (1.24.6 sec./lap at BRC) using his old car F398, which his younger brother Don used in the promotional class, compared to his times using the F302 car (1.258 sec./lap).

Enzo said it wasn't a really good year for him.

"I just look at this as preparation for my next year," said Enzo. Hopefully, the experience will pay off when I compete in the 2005 World Series F3, where they are using similar spec. car F304, although newer version of F302."

Don overcame driveshaft and engine problems to take third overall in the AF3 promotional class championship behind leader Sy and Japan's Kenkou Miura.

"We thank all of our sponsors for this year, without them all of this would not be possible," said the brothers.

Enzo has an invitation to test drive for the Minardi F1 team.

Ka Eliong golf up at Royal Northwoods

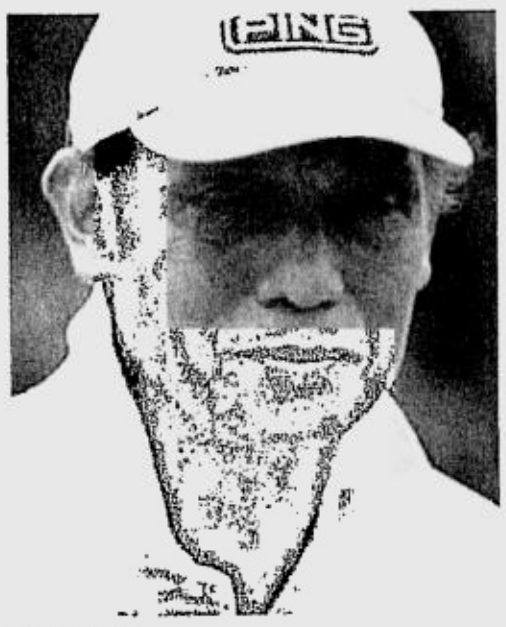
A ROYAL Northwoods member whacks it off at the range.

THE ROYAL Northwoods Golf Club Inc. will stage the annual Ka Eliong's memorial and inter-town golf tournament on Dec. 17 and 18 with a banner field, headed by club president Gerardo Pancho and general manager Antonio Pancho, seeing action in San Rafael, Bulacan.

The event is held not only to commemorate the memory of the late Cornelio Pancho, better known as "Ka Eliong" for the Bulakeños and the prime mover of the Royal Northwoods Golf Club. It is also staged to raise funds for the Ka Eliong Foundation, which provides free education to indigent but deserving children and gives employment to calamity victims.

CM Pancho Const. Inc. and the Royal Northwoods Golf Club Inc. are involved in the ongoing clearing and relief operations in Quezon provinces, which was devastated by a string of typhoons recently.

Southwoods within 3 of Nike Golf



MANOTOC

By Musong R. Castillo

BAGUIO CITY—Artemio Murakami shot a flawless three-under-par 58 for 39 points Saturday as Southwoods moved into solid contention in the centerpiece Fil division of the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational here.

Murakami solved the tricky Baguio Country Club layout here with precise iron play and a hot putter, sparking a 141 output that boosted Southwoods within three points off powerhouse Nike Golf with 18 holes left to play.

Gene Bondoc assembled a level 61 for 36 points with three birdies and the same number of bogeys, Michael Bibat contributed 35 and Tonlits Asistio added a 31 for Southwoods. Jun Jun Plana's 28 was thrown away.

Southwoods now has a three-round total of 423, just three adrift of Nike, which got 37 points from Jay Bayron but struggling numbers from the rest.

Ace Juvic Pagunsan could only muster a 35 and Jun Bernis and Abe Rosal did no better than turn in 30s. Boyet Saragoza had a 29 and did not count for the three-day leaders.

The Philippine Amateur champion at age 15 in 1999, Murakami birdied Nos. 1, 8 and 18 from eight, 15 and 25 feet, respectively, using a new Honma putter given him by Southwoods member Tony Arevalo just three weeks ago.

"Our mindset (going into the third round) was to nibble away at the (Nike) lead and give ourselves a decent shot at winning," said Murakami, who played his first stint in an RP team uniform in the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico last month.

"The number we have to overhaul (in the final round) is more reasonable now," added Murakami, whose Southwoods team trailed by 14 points after round 1 and 12 after 36 holes.

Del Monte remained in third spot after a 129 (407) built around the 33s of Tristan Tabanas, Lino Retuerto and Romeo Jaraula, even as deposed champion Mizuno-DHL stood a further 17 points back in fourth at 390 after a 119.

Meanwhile, Nike's Am team, playing the relatively easier but longer John Hay layout, turned up the heat some more by pooling a 146 built around Tommy Manotoc's 39 for a three-day 413 and a 46-point lead over Southwoods.

Manotoc's output, equal to a medal three-under 66, was backed up by Dave Hernandez' 38, Ronnie Torrecampo's 35 and JR Tanpinco's 34. Matthew Manotoc struggled and did not count with a 26.

Del Monte scored a 121 (353) and stayed in third in the Am division, with Mizuno in fourth at 330 after a 109.

The tournament is presented by Smart Communications and supported by Northwest Airlines, Royal Caribbean, Lucerne Jewelers, Wilson Sports, Heritage Park, Caltex, Ottica Eyewear, Lamoiyan-Hapee, San Miguel, Aresi, Ayala Land, Club Marinduque and U-Bix Corp.

While Nike was busy trying to sweep the championship division, Camp John Hay was quietly doing the same in Flight A after its Fil team assembled a 107 to build an 11-point lead over Philippine International Contractors.

John Hay stayed on top of the Am category despite a meager 86 at CJH, its 278 tally still five ahead of Neplum 1 (93).

Meanwhile, Dugong Bughaw edged Eat Bulaga-Macabud for the Flight B title of the Fil division, pooling an 86 for a 365 total, four better than the Eat Bulaga crew.

Explosive comeback for Tommy

BAGUIO CITY—Tommy Manotoc came to this chilly summer capital with the best amateurs in tow, not with the intention of sweeping the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational, but to unite the powers in golf by example.

Three years after declaring that he would never again play in the annual event that is reputedly the biggest team championship in the world, Manotoc made an explosive, triumphant return.

"I'm still emotional about it. It still hurts," said the 55-year-old Manotoc, referring to a disputed ruling which cost Calatagan the Fil title in 2001.

"The game of golf was brought down to a low level and it was unacceptable," Manotoc said of the ruling. "But to propel golf unity, I decided to play here again. Winning comes secondary."

But second is what the others in the Am field are fighting for now, after Manotoc has led Nike Golf to a 46-point lead going into the final 18 holes at the Camp John Hay layout here.

"We're just playing well. I can't think of a better reason why we are up by so much," added Manotoc, who shot a three-under-66 yesterday and is leading everyone in the individual Am race.

The 55-year-old is enjoying fine form this late in his career, attributing it to a peaceful life after he married the former Yvette de Leon, and his desire to unite key personalities that run golf in the land.

After an aborted bid to join the National Golf Association of the Philippines board earlier in the year, Manotoc has turned his efforts to help amateur golf by establishing the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation.

The PAGDF is what Tommy is using to chip in his share, the involvement of Nike Golf in this tournament one of its first projects.

In fact, Nike is already in the process of customizing a complete set of clubs for Juvic Pagunsan, and Manotoc hopes that the other golf club dealers in the land would follow suit.

"Good equipment is half of the game. If the foundation (PAGDF) can get modern sets for all the national pool members, then we can start thinking of winning more for the country."

Musong R. Castillo

Del Rosario gains semis; King bows out

THE PHILIPPINES' Liza del Rosario overpowered Sweden's Helen Johannson in the best-of-three quarterfinals yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the 40th AMF Bowling World Cup at the Superbowl Safra Mount Faber in Singapore.

Del Rosario swept her quarterfinal match, 278-203, 232-189, against the hapless Swede, who trailed by 55 pins after frame five in their first game.

Del Rosario, who was cheered by FIQ president Steve Hontiveros, next plays American Shannon Pluhowsky in the semifinals.

Chester King wasn't so lucky, however, losing to fifth seed Yahav Rabin of Israel, 257 - 179, 237 - 237, 235 - 257, to crash out of the race despite starting out the quarterfinal match on fire.

King blasted the 22-year-old Israeli in the first game and started the second game with a comfortable 21-pin lead.

But Yahav then strung together six consecutive strikes in frames four to nine.

King, who entered the knockout phase as the No. 4 seed, also started the deciding match with three strikes to take the early lead but fizzled out in the stretch.

Del Rosario also started out the second game in commanding fashion, knocking three straight strikes to pull away. Unlike King, however, Del Rosario finished off her foe before the Swede could make a last-ditch rally.

Johansson's four straight strikes to close the match hardly even mattered as the Filipino had the semifinal slot all sewed up.

A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

8th Asian women's softball starts today

FAVORITES, including the Philippine Blu Girls, are expected to have a grand day today when they meet lowly, inexperienced rivals at the start of the 12-nation, week-long eighth Asian women's softball tournament at the Rizal stadium.

The country's top hurler, veteran Maria Corazon Soberre, will take the mound when the Blu Girls open their bid against Thailand at 1 p.m. in one of six inaugural games.

Defending champion China, Athens Olympics bronze medalist Japan, South Korea, North Korea and Chinese-Taipei should have no problem winning their opening assignments, too, in this tournament serving as the Asian eliminations for the 2007 world championships in Shanghai.

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Stadium*)
8 a.m.—Japan vs Hong Kong
10 a.m.—China vs Indonesia
12 noon—Opening ceremonies
1 p.m.—Thailand vs Philippines
3 p.m.—Singapore vs South Korea
5 p.m.—Chinese-Taipei vs India
7 p.m.—North Korea vs Malaysia

Winner in the last four stagings of this meet, the Chinese battle Indonesia at 10 a.m. while perennial finalist and three-time titlist Japan also has an easy game against Hong Kong in the opener at 8 a.m.

South Korea takes on Singapore at 3 p.m., Chinese-Taipei battles India at 5 p.m. and North Korea meets Malaysia in a night game at 7.

A simple opening ceremony is scheduled at noon with world softball federation president Don Porter, Philippine Olympic Committee head Cito Dayrit, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde and Softball Confederation of Asia head Brian Choo heading the special guests.

According to former Manila Congressman and Asa-Phil. president Harry Angping, this marks only the second time in the history of the league that 12 nations will compete and dispute the three world championship slots allotted for Asia.

Japan, Chinese-Taipei, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and India make up Group A, while China, North Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia compose Group B.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
JENNIFER Bohare dives for the ball as partner Patricia Siatan looks on.

Navy, Army battle for title

PHILIPPINE Army's Patricia Siatan and Jennifer Bohare sealed a dream championship showdown with Philippine Navy's Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena after beating their respective semifinal opponents in contrasting fashion in the fourth and final leg of the 2004 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Cantada Sports Center.

Tabuena and Laborte, former standouts of the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, encountered rough sailing against Rubie de Leon and Josie May de la Rosa before pulling through, 21-17.

On the other hand, Bohare and Siatan, former stalwarts of multititled San Sebastian College who are now plying their trade with the Army, scored a 21-8 drubbing of St. Francis' Joyce Realeza and Roma Cyril Jaro.

Their semifinal victories set up a championship encounter between the two military pairs for the right to be crowned Petron beach volleyball queens.

"The two teams remained true to the form charts although the Navy tandem had to struggle in the semifinals. Nevertheless, today's championship encounter between the country's best beach volleyball duos is something that we are looking forward to," said Tisha Abundo, organizer of the successful Petron volleyball event, now on its second year.

DLSU, Letran seek share of 2nd place

LA SALLE and Letran eye a share of second with idle Philippine Sports Commission as they take on struggling Far Eastern U and winless Lyceum, respectively, in the second conference of the Shakey's V-League today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

With Cherry Macatangay-Rivera and Joan Botor-Carpio on the firing end, Letran subdued San Sebastian, 25-20, 26-24, 26-28, 21-25, 17-15, to notch its second victory in three games Thursday.

That enabled the Lady Knights to catch up with the La Salle spikers, who picked up their second straight win after an opening-day loss to defending champion University of Santo Tomas with a come-from-behind 21-25, 25-14, 25-21, 25-17, victory over the SSC belles.

STANDINGS	W	L
UST	3	0
PSC	3	1
La Salle	2	1
Letran	2	1
FEU	1	2
Lyceum	0	2
San Sebastian	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle
3 p.m.—Letran vs Lyceum

But the Taft Avenue-based Lady Archers will have their hands full against the Lady Tams, who snapped a two-game skid with a stirring triumph over Lyceum last Thursday where they battled back from two sets down to win, 19-25, 25-27, 25-18, 25-23, 15-10.

La Salle, the back-to-back UAAP titlist, battles FEU at 1 p.m. before Letran and Lyceum collide at 3 p.m. Admission is free with the first game to be telecast on IBC-13 starting at 3 p.m. today with the Letran-Lyceum match to be aired Monday.

Both matches are expected to be close with no teams holding a distinct advantage over the other, further underscoring the level of competition among seven teams in the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

In fact, despite the 0-2 and 0-3 records of Lyceum and San Sebastian, respectively, the Lady Pirates and the Lady Stages remain a force to reckon with and are expected to come back strong.

Lyceum tries to recover lost ground behind Michelle Laborte and Cristina Salak against Letran while FEU will pin its hopes on Ailyn Ege, Ruby May Rovira, Mary Ann Manalo and Mary Dianne Torre against fancied La Salle.

UST sets the pace with three straight victories, including a pulsating 18-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-14, 15-9 win over the PSC belles last Tuesday.

The event is co-presented by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Jolo's kid may carry his name, says grandpa Ramon

By Nini Valera

JOLO Revilla's child by Grace Adriano could carry his surname, according to Jolo's grandfather, actor and former Sen. Ramon Revilla.

When he was still a senator, the older Revilla had sponsored an amendment to the Family Code, which was enacted into law last February, that provides that "illegitimate children may use the surname of their father if their filiation has been expressly recognized by the father through the record of birth appearing in the civil register, or when an admission in a public document or private handwritten instrument is made by the father."

Jolo, son of Sen. Bong Revilla and Lani Mercado, and Grace, daughter of Rosanna Roces, are not getting married soon despite the girl's condition, Lani told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

Both Jolo and Grace are 16.

Osang said the teenage couple's child, which an ultrasound test showed to be a boy, would be named Leone Bautista, following Jolo's real last name.

"This is my legacy," said the older Revilla, referring to the Family Code revision, in an earlier interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "The child should not suffer a stigma from his illegitimate birth."

Court action

But the revised Family Code also states that "the father has the right to institute an action before the regular courts to prove non-filiation during his lifetime."

This means that for as long as the father is alive, he could contest having fathered the child even if he has signed documents acknowledging the child as his. For example, he could claim in a court action that he was only coerced into signing the child's birth certificate.

JOLO REVILLA does not have a steady income but has savings, says his mom.

The older Revilla himself, who had reportedly fathered at least 80 children by different women, also told INQUIRER Entertainment in a previous interview that he had stipulated in his will that anybody who would claim to be his child after his death would have to prove it by taking a DNA test.

The amended Family Code also stipulates that the "legitime of each illegitimate child shall consist of one-half of the legitime of a legitimate child."

Legitime refers to a portion of the inheritance of the father's estate.

Lani told INQUIRER Entertainment that her son would support the forthcoming child.

"We spoke to him about responsibility," said Lani. "We stressed to him that the child is his responsibility. He has to work harder now that he would be a father. But we would help him fulfill his obligations if he is not capable of meeting them."

Never a mistake

Jolo has a two-year contract with ABS-CBN. But his income is not steady since he has no show now with the network. But he has savings, according to his mother.

Lani also stressed that she and Bong are not condoning Jolo's getting Grace pregnant, even as she said that no child is a mistake.

"A child is always a blessing," Lani said. "But it does not mean that it's right for teenagers to be bearing children. We are not in favor of that."

Grace is expected to give birth in January 2005 at the Cardinal Santos Hospital. Lani said she has already bought her unborn grandchild a crib and baby clothes.

Lani said she and Osang have talked about the baby's birth constantly.

"Bong and I have always assured Osang that we would be there to support the child," Lani said.

Marriage survives

Although teenage pregnancy in show biz is a common occurrence, Lani said this should not be encouraged.

Broken marriages between teenage couples have also become a statistic. Lani herself had married Bong when she was only 18 and he was 19.

Sharon Cuneta was also 18 when she married Gabby Concepcion. So was Pops Fernandez when she married Martin Nievera.

Among these marriages, only that of Lani and Bong has survived. The couple now has six children. Jolo is their second child.

Jolo's child with Grace will be the couple's first grandchild.

Christmas gifts, the press, and the stars

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

It might be simpler all around if the stars did not go out of their way to give gifts at all. This way, there are no false expectations for either star or reporter. If you have no plans of giving the star a gift, then don't expect one from the star yourself

IT ISN'T often that we in the press get to thank the stars. Half the time we're not even expected to, actually.

In the trade, the attitude is that the stars need the press—not the other way around. So whether it admits to it or not, the press expects to be fawned over and given gifts and generally buttered up—never the other way around.

Just check out how many editors have decimated a star, in print, because in a press conference the star—heaven forbid!—did not remember their names. Or did not agree to be a presenter in an awards night they are organizers of. Or did not give them that "exclusive."

Research how many columnists have done a demolition job against a star because the star—how dare she!—did not come to the wedding of their daughter. Or disagreed with them in print. Or did not donate to their favorite charity.

Meantime, reporters watching the unfolding drama put all their money on the editor and columnist. Probably because they can imagine themselves in similar fights some day, and they want these important colleagues backing them up then—right or wrong, fair or foul.

The only time the hatchet jobs begin to ease up is when the star, usually upon the advice of a nervous manager or an even more nervous producer, makes huge overtures.

Like, the star attends the offended columnist's birthday, braving a possible snub, and gives the columnist's kid concert tickets to a visiting foreign artist's act. She might also throw in gift certificates to Rustan's.

Or like, the star invites the irate editor to a ritzy restaurant, where she fetes not just the editor but the editor's extended entourage, and hands the editor an impressive goodbye gift besides. She might also throw in an invitation to join her in Bangkok.

The idea is to salve the ego of the press.

Never mind that it is not a crime to forget somebody's name, even that of a famous columnist. Never mind that a star is within his rights to disagree with any writer at any time. And never mind that there is no rule that says a star has to be a *ninang* at a wedding, show up at an awards night, or donate a centavo to anyone's favorite charity.

In the order of the biz, the press is a class above.

Saying thank you

Christmastime is especially telling. For this is the season when the relationship between reporter and star is at its most lopsided.

Note how many reporters bother to give thank-you cards—let alone gifts—to the stars that give them beautifully wrapped presents for Christmas.

In this highly unequal set-up, stars give and reporters receive.

Surely, the stars earn more. And, come Christmastime, no one can stop them from being dramatically grateful for their "blessings." Also, some of them really do take their gift lists seriously.

Take **Sharon Cuneta.**

Tried and tested in the ways of show biz, the Megastar has a gift list—I am guessing—of at least 3,000 names! Now that the man she married is a senator, I can only imagine that the list has doubled!

And knowing the disaster of inadvertently skipping the gift of just one reporter, who may belong to a circle of reporters that likes to talk about what they got for Christmas, Sharon is bound to map out the hows and whens and wheres of her gift-giving personally. This is a star, after all, who is master of her trade as well as her manners.

Also take **Lucy Torres.**

Believe it, Lucy's gift wrapping alone is a work of art. Lucy is a craftswoman, of course, but more than skill, the whole thing is, in her words, "a labor of love." I also believe she builds up her gift pile all year round, picking items from travels abroad and from bazaars here, so that each gift becomes special by the time Christmas comes around.

But I wonder how many in the press return the thought.

Sharon and Lucy—that I should choose the two of them is, I swear, for no other reason than that I remember *their* gifts, and in fact have been attempting for two years to find the perfect presents for them—may not expect the thank yous, and may not even need them, but certainly they would like to know that their gesture is appreciated.

Unless we don't believe that stars are people, too!

Besides, doesn't it feel funny that stars and reporters call each other "friends" all the time, and tell tales of "fun times together," and know each other's brothers and sisters by name—but only one side always gives a gift?

No—a reporter cannot say that his gift is his write-up, or column, or editorial, or feature, or cover story. Those are not gifts for giving away. Those are, to be frightfully terse about it, sacred, and must be left alone.

The moment a reporter starts thinking of any of those things as material he can wrap and trade, he ruins—himself and the profession.

Because then he has to start shaping his facts and his interpretation a definite way—all bright and breezy for the star he is giving the gift to; all dark and ugly for anyone at odds with the star he is giving the gift to.

I don't know—but I prefer that stars give gifts only to reporters they are actually close to.

Those whose calls they take and return—but even better, those they enjoy chatting with, even when they're *not* being written about and when they *don't* need to be written about.

Those they have a texting relationship with—especially if the subjects of their text exchanges are *also* about matters not related to the trade.

Those they find at their birthday celebrations, their sets, their press conferences—especially those who show up when their show biz careers are at an ebb.

Those they have a history with, who have seen them through their breakups, who have been with them at the wakes of their loved ones, who have traveled with them—especially those who, through all that intimacy, have honored their word on what should be kept off the record.

Of course, in the end, the other face of this is that reporters should never take it against the stars if no gift is forthcoming—period.

In fact, it might be simpler all around if the stars did not go out of their way to give gifts at all. This way, there are no false expectations for either star or reporter.

A good rule to follow might be: If you have no plans of giving the star a gift, then don't expect one from the star yourself.

Lest this be taken as cynical tit-for-tat, let me clarify that this only means that the holidays are as good a time as any to go back to the basics. If the stars are subjects we write about, that does not make them our "friends." If they are not our friends, we don't put them in a position where they feel the need to give us something, as friends might.

Stars should never fear *not* giving gifts; reporters should forever fear mistaking write-ups for gifts.

SHARON CUNETA may have a gift list of at least 3,000 names. PHOTO COURTESY OF YES!

Friendster meets i-Tunes in new music community

PHILIPPINE creativity and music portal FiestaMundo.com take advantage of the Pinoy fondness for keeping and making new friends on the Web with the launch of its Barkada Groups.

A registered FiestaMundo.com user can now set up a Barkada Group and gather as many as 600 friends, and join or link up with other Barkada Groups.

It is being touted as "the world's first *barkada* community for music and fun."

"More than gathering friends, a Barkada Group's members may share music among themselves legally and without fuss in a way that's familiar with them, that is, a *barkada* setup," said FiestaMundo.com founder and Pinoy creativity advocate Andrian Lee.

FiestaMundo.com is now the online home of Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All Stars, Cynthia Alexander, Drip, Fatal Disaster, Fortitude, Fuseboxx, Hair Meets The Eye, Makiling Ensemble, Makopa, MayoUno, Mr. Lonely, Noel Cabangon, Radioactive Sago Project Inc., Rubberband, Sisig, Soapdish, Three Cords and the Truth, Triangle Trauma and ValetParking, among others.

"These artists may form several Barkada Groups for their fans and keep in touch via FiestaMundo.com," Lee said.

Lee explained that a Barkada Groups member can share a song he buys with 12 of his *barkadas*.

"These songs will be available for free streaming in the site," said Lee.

"Consider it as Friendster meets i-Tunes and it's entirely devoted to sharing with the nation and the whole world a feast of Pinoy music," said Lee.

i-Tunes is a website where iPod users can download millions of MP3 music.

Registration at FiestaMundo.com is free. An ongoing promo gives new registrants a chance to win three iPod mini's.

"This is a good way of meeting and making friends with one's favorite new and rising Pinoy musicians who have signed up as FiestaMundo.com featured artists," said Lee.

Barkada Groups may be named depending on the music genre a user or a *barkada* prefers.

"There are no rules on any of the groups sticking to just one genre," he said. "One may be a member of a Pinoy Rock Barkada Group while also being linked with pals in a Classical Music Barkada Group."

Barkada Group is the social affinity segment of FiestaMundo.com, which styles itself as an independent media distributor for Pinoy artists and their creative output.

"This will help artists push their music to a broad market," said Lee.

Set for a formal launch in February 2005, FiestaMundo.com will principally feature artist spaces where musicians can keep online profiles, photo galleries and MP3 download consoles.

"This is a step forward in the twin battles against piracy and for the recognition of Pinoy creativity and artistry," said Lee.

Proceeds will be shared between the site and the artist.

Both site and artist also expect to reap extra or bigger profits from mobile downloads which will soon be integrated in the Barkada Groups.

Mother from hell

ERIC MATTI'S horror film, "Pa-Siyam," goes against local movies' traditional depiction of mothers as the heroines and angels of the Filipino family. As its creepy story unfolds, we are introduced to a mother who is so aggrieved and vengeful that she makes life hell for her children, even beyond the grave.

That's right, the mother in this fright flick is the deceased for whom the *pa-siyam* of the movie's title is being held. But, she turns out to be such a horrific terror that her children end up realizing that they need to pray for their own welfare and survival instead!

To be sure, she wasn't born a virago, but became an unholy terror only after being oppressed, assaulted, tortured and neglected by many people, including her own ostensibly ever-loving children.

Thus, the film ends up as an indictment, not really of mothers, but of families that are supposed to love each other, but sometimes end up making life a living hell for some of its members. So, the smothering mother in "Pa-Siyam" can hardly be blamed for being so vicious and evil.

The film's best suit is its arresting visualizations, a combination of apt choice of location, production design, lighting and camera work. This is an appreciable plus factor because horror films should be visually compelling in order to strike dread in the hearts of viewers.

On the other hand, the plot's logic leaves a lot to be desired. When the family wakes up to find itself surrounded by excrement, courtesy of the vengeful ghost, one would think that everyone would get the hell out of that cursed mansion in one second flat!

But, no, they stick around for the nine days and nights of the *pa-siyam*, wondering all the while what the heck is going on. Duh, are they dense, or something? Or something!

The casting and performance are also a problem. The eldest brother, **Roderick Paulate**, looks nothing like any of his siblings. And his performance is limited by his mask-like face, rendered unexpressive by the plumpness that's accumulated around his cheeks and jowls.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Aubrey Miles is given the potentially film-stealing role of the retarded sibling. Unfortunately, she merely goes through the standard motions of *acting* retarded, and her performance soon turns out to be a predictable bore.

Despite these and other limitations, "Pa-Siyam" bears watching for some of its shots and editing. But the implausibilities in its storytelling limits its ability to scare viewers, because their empathy is marred by too many questions that remain unanswered.

PLUMP PERFORMER. Roderick Paulate (second from right) looks nothing like any of his siblings in the story and his performance is limited by his mask-like, unexpressive face.

World Bazaar Festival

ONGOING at the World Trade Center (Dec. 12, 13 and 23-29) is the World Bazaar Festival, showcasing over 500 exhibitors, including small and medium-scale enterprises. There are also special theme pavilions like Kiddie Wonderland, International Village and Santa Claus from Finland.

'The Life of David Gale'

CINEMAX is screening "The Life of David Gale" at 9 p.m. on Dec. 12. **Kevin Spacey** plays the title character, a professor and anti-death penalty activist who, in a bizarre twist of fate, ends up on Death Row for the rape and murder of a fellow activist.

'The Final Cut'

IN "THE Final Cut," **Robin Williams** plays a "memory cutter," who specializes in editing the memories of people with a checkered past.

The final product is so sanitized that these people are made pristine in the eyes of those attending their wake.

However, his latest project uncovers a disturbing piece from his past that has brought him untold suffering and guilt for a long time.

'Come to the Stable'

THE FOURTH edition of "Come to the Stable" is slated on Dec. 18 at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 43 Makinley Rd., Makati City. The annual free Christmas concert and fund-raiser for Ang Arko ng Pilipinas, a home for the mentally challenged, is presented by Sinagtala in cooperation with the MCO Foundation and the Church of the Holy Trinity.

The Arko community will perform a nativity play, and many Sinagtala artists will present musical numbers. Call 8784258 or 9468252, or visit www.sinagtala.net.

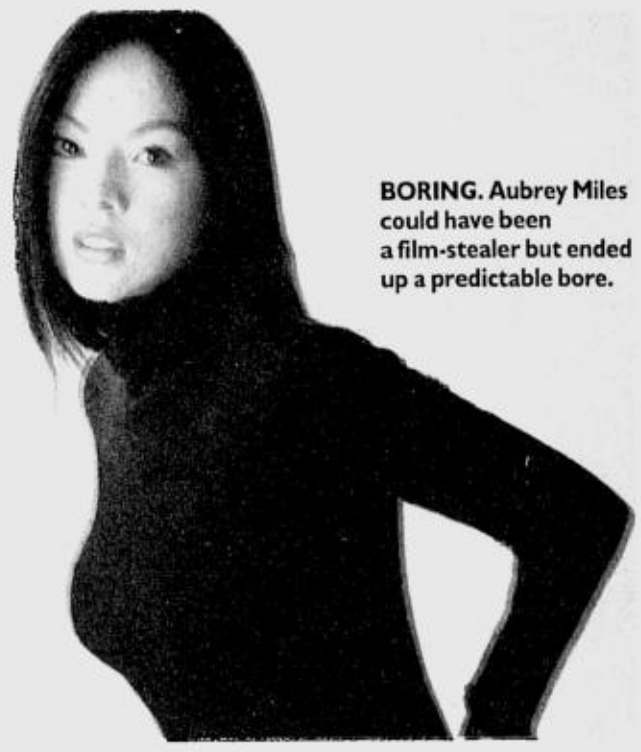
Affinity

THE WELL-REGARDED group, Affinity, is performing along with other homegrown jazz acts at PARI's free concert at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13, at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati.

Known in jazz circles as masters of jazz improvisation, Affinity is made up of **Johnny Alegre** (guitar), **Tots Tolentino** (saxophone), **Elhmir Saison** (keyboards), **Simon Tan** (bass) and **Koko Bermejo** (drums).

2005 lineup of shows

SIMON Lai, Hallmark Channel's vice president for sales and business development, will present the channel's 2005 programming lineup at 3 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the New World Hotel in Makati.



BORING. Aubrey Miles could have been a film-stealer but ended up a predictable bore.

That's What Friendster's For

SMART Presents Friendster Mobile

The word "phenomenon" is often overused when describing certain things nowadays. To be phenomenal, something has to be impressive or extraordinary, something that changes people's perceptions of things. Therefore, there can be little argument that Friendster is indeed a phenomenon. Established in early 2003, Friendster has swept the globe, allowing people to make friends or re-establish old bonds though separated by thousands of miles via the Internet. Now, SMART Communications, the nation's leading wireless network, presents a whole new way for you to use Friendster... through your cellfone!

For the first time anywhere in the world, Friendster is joining up with wireless network providers. Friendster Mobile is a mobile community for Friendster members that operates over a short messaging service (SMS), multimedia messaging service (MMS) or wireless applications protocol (WAP) network. Friendster Mobile will allow the over 17 million subscribers on the SMART Network to respond to friend requests, bulletin alerts, testimonial alerts, and message alerts on Friendster via their own cellfones. If you have an existing account on www.friendster.com, you're halfway done to getting Friendster Mobile. Just text FRIENDSTER <email address> <password> to 227.

You can even send Friendster friend requests, testimonials, and bulletin board messages via your cellfone. Have you ever wanted to send messages or view the profiles of your friends through Friendster? Well now you can thanks to Friendster Mobile and SMART.

The Friendster craze swept through the Philippines and the world, changing the way people connect and reconnect with family, friends and acquaintances. According to Joe Hurd, General Manager for International of Friendster, "Because of Friendster's popularity and ease of use, as well as the service's ability to reflect individual tastes, Friendster has rapidly grown in the Philippines." When asked why Friendster Mobile is being launched in the Philippines, Hurd stated, "We are proud of our Filipino users and are pleased that the Philippines will be the first country to experience our "Friendster Mobile" product."

As Friendster moves from the Internet to an even more accessible mobile phone arena, SMART Communications is the perfect partner for Friendster. The most number of Filipino wireless subscribers are on the SMART Network, and they can now have access to the most popular networking phenomenon on the Internet. With communicating and connecting with people close to one's heart as the driving force behind both entities, this is another step in SMART's continued commitment to providing the best possible services to the most number of subscribers. Register your Friendster Mobile account today for a chance to win Sony Ericsson K500i handsets weekly. Just text FRIENDSTER to 227! *DTI Permit No. 3303. Promo Period Dec. 11, 2004 - Jan. 22, 2005.*

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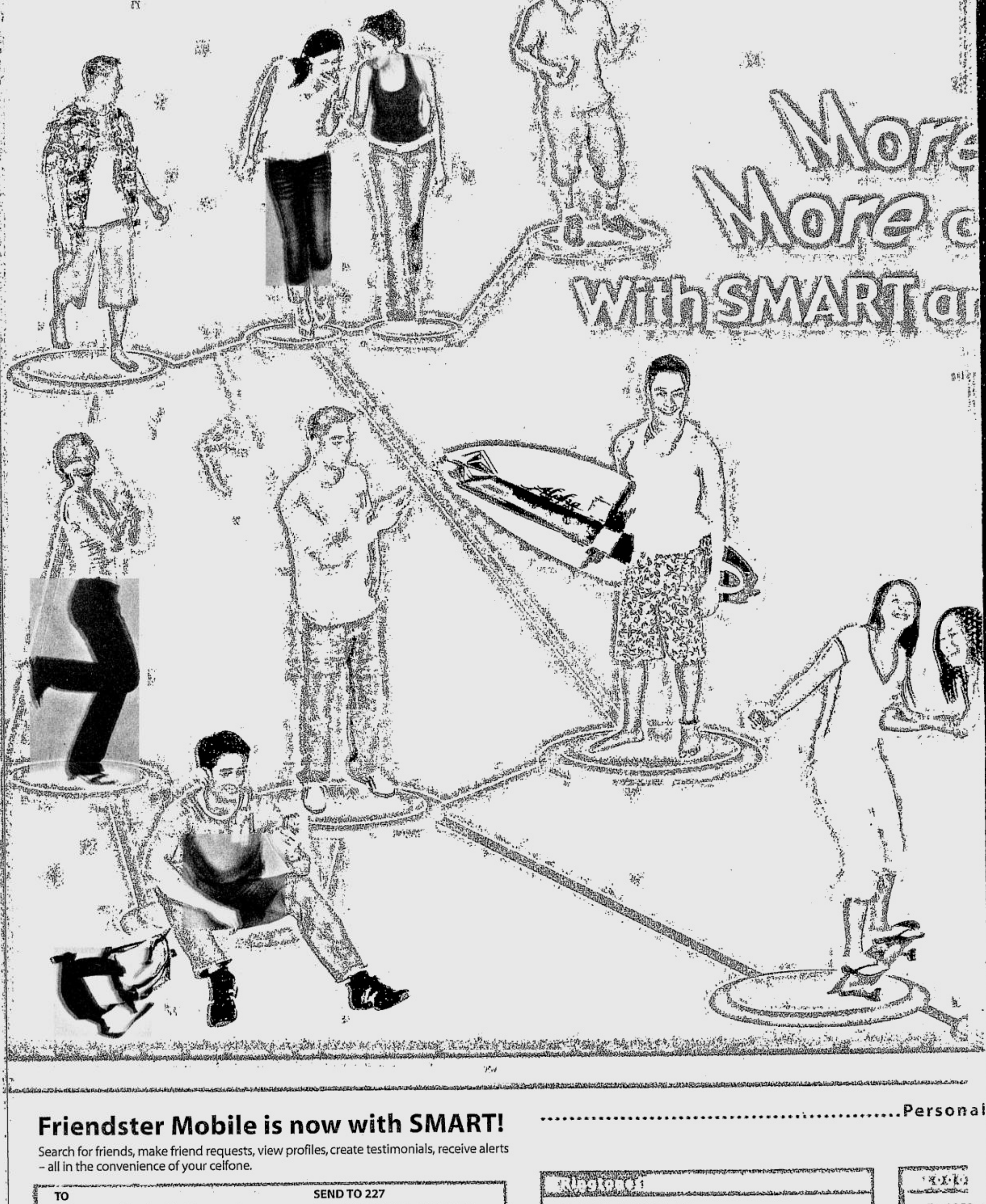

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TO	SEND TO 227
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Receive Testimonials	ON TESTIFY
Get Friendster Messages	ON MSG
Receive alerts on all services	ON ALERTS
Send a Friend Request	BEFRIEND <email address>
Send a Testimonial	TESTIFY <email address> <testimony>
Send a Friendster Message	MSG <email address> <message>
Access the Friend Search service	FIND <first name>

Visit www.smart.com.ph/friendster for complete list of keywords.
To download Friendster Menu, type FRIENDSTER ADD and send to 211.

.....Personal

Text **TONE** < keyword> to **227**

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Bestfriends	Dice & K9	FMT1
Lost Without Each Other	Hanson	FMT2
Beyonf The Sea(Finding Nemo)	Robbie Williams	FMT3
If You Leave Me Now	Joshua Payne	FMT4
I Wanna Get Close	Freestyle	FMT9
Right By Your Side	Freestyle	FMT10
Till I Found You	Freestyle	FMT11
Colour Everywhere	Christian Bautista	FMT12

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FMI 4

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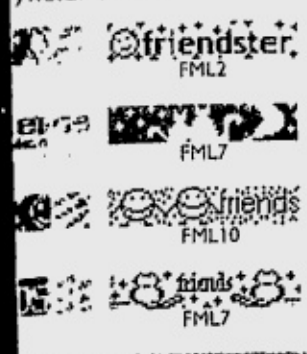

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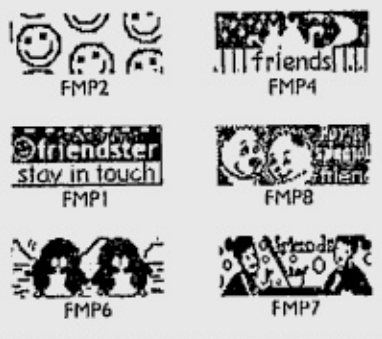

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3. Go to Handset Themes.
4. Go to Friendster
5. Select corresponding phone model (i.e. N6600, P900, T610).
6. Select theme of choice.

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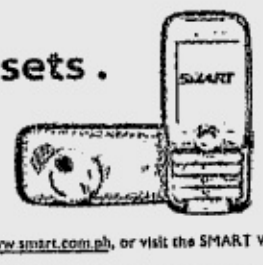

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SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
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CANARY FILMS PRESENTATION
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THEME SONG PERFORMED BY THOR, ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM ORBIT MUSIC
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WALA NG MAS SASALBAHE PA SA KANYA!
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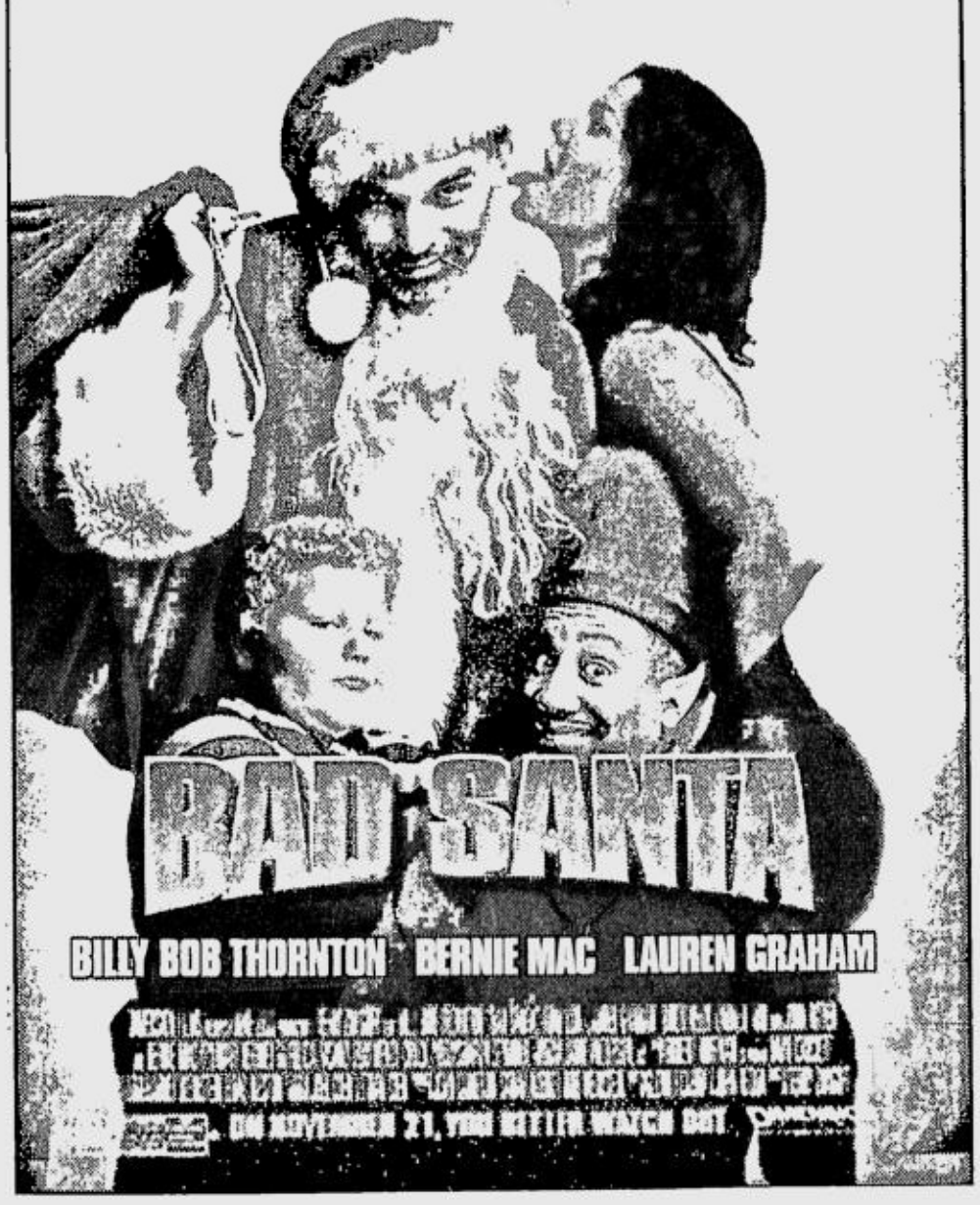
BAD SANTA
BILLY BOB THORNTON BERNIE MAC LAUREN GRAHAM

MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
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Find out why the critics are laughing out loud!
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"Made me laugh loud and often as much if not more than any other movie I've seen this year." -Kevin N. Laforest, MONTREAL FILM JOURNAL
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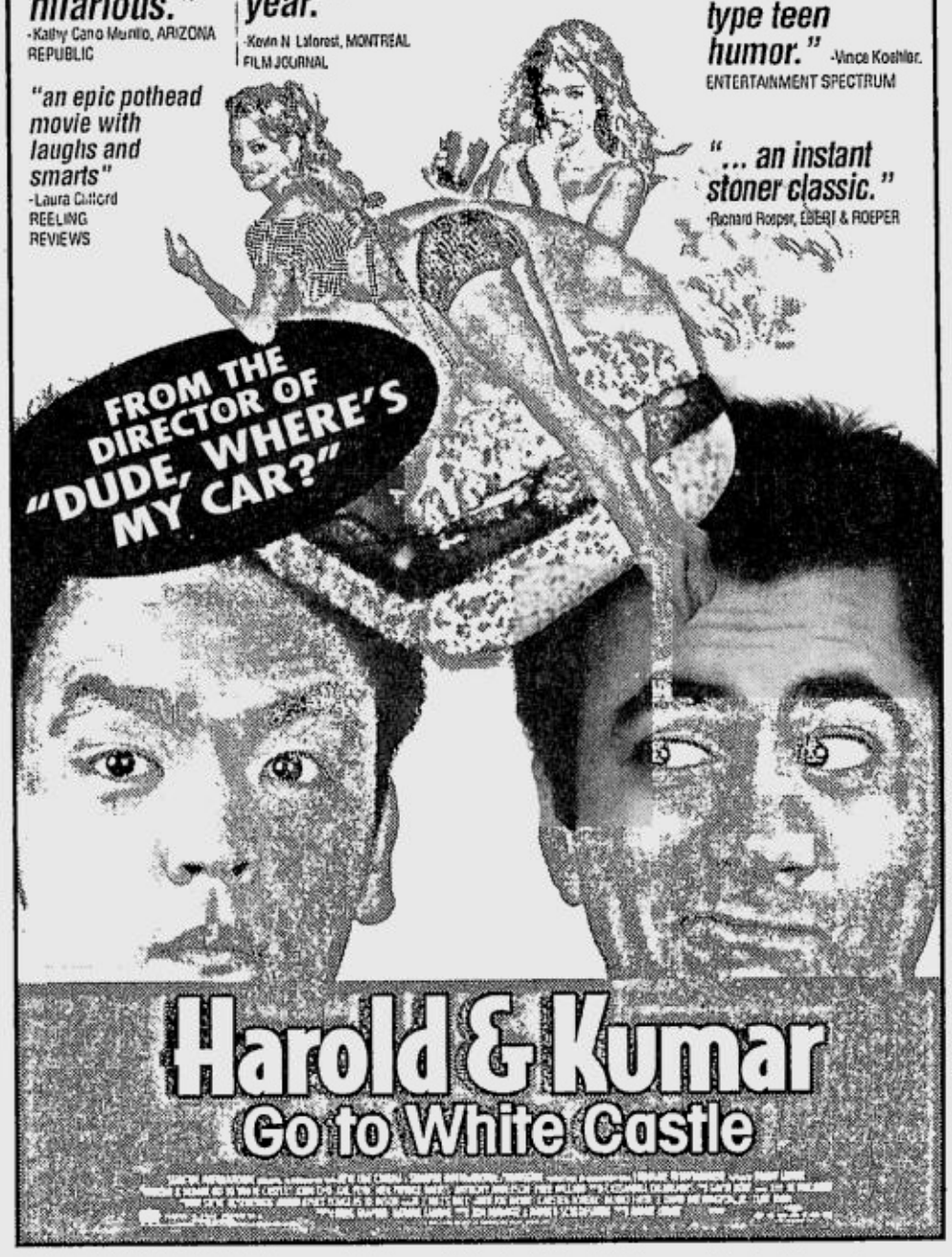
"This new comedy offers 'American Pie' type teen humor." -Vince Koehler, ENTERTAINMENT SPECTRUM
"... an instant stoner classic." -Richard Roeper, EBERT & ROEPER
"an epic pothead movie with laughs and smarts" -Laura Clifford, REELING REVIEWS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?"
Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle

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NOW BREAKING BOXOFFICE RECORDS IN MANILA!
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"Monumentally ambitious, Oliver Stone's Alexander accomplishes the twin objectives of the epic biopic." -ANNLEE ELLINGSON, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE
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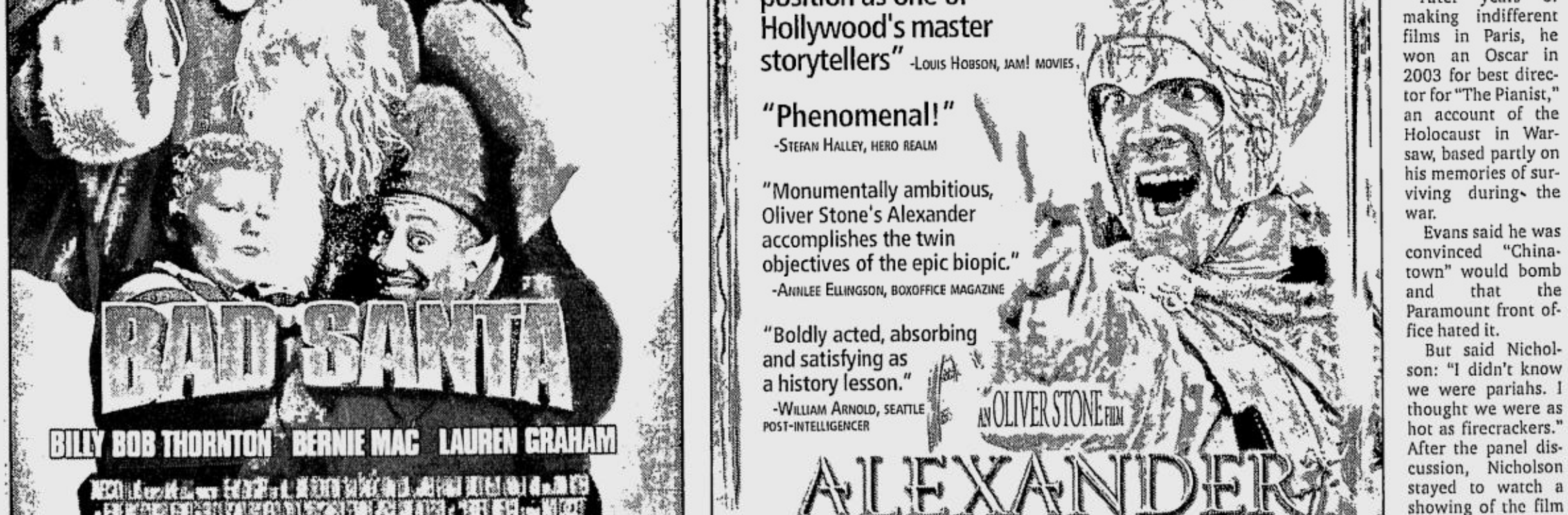

TAONG GAGAMBA
TAONG PUNO
HEAD
REYNA NG KADILIMAN
UNDER TAKER
ROMERO
Enteng Kabisote
OKAY KA FAIRY KO...THE LEGEND
DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES

Four men and one...

From page A0

gets sent to jail.

"Roman was right to say that he wanted an ending this stark for a movie so complicated," Towne said.

"I said, 'I'll write it but it will be s**t.'"

Evans reminded Towne he never would have won an Oscar if he had done it his way.

Director plays thug

Towne also credits Polanski with sharpening the key "My sister, my daughter" scene in which Nicholson, playing sleazy divorce detective Jake Gittis, slaps Dunaway silly because she made no sense in explaining what her relationship was to the film's mystery woman.

And it was Polanski as well who came up with the idea that if a thug slashes Gittis' nose halfway through the film because he was too "nosy," then the character would have to wear a bandage or stitches for the rest of the movie. Polanski went on to play that thug with great gusto.

The director clearly played a major role in shaping the blockbuster and seemed headed for a major Hollywood career. But four years later he was in exile in Europe, having fled there to avoid jail for having had sex with a minor.

After years of making indifferent films in Paris, he won an Oscar in 2003 for best director for "The Pianist," an account of the Holocaust in Warsaw, based partly on his memories of surviving during the war.

Evans said he was convinced "Chinatown" would bomb and that the Paramount front office hated it.

But said Nicholson: "I didn't know we were pariahs. I thought we were as hot as firecrackers." After the panel discussion, Nicholson stayed to watch a showing of the film and told Towne, "You know, it's pretty good." *Reuters*

LALAINE in Skechers

Lalaine, truly world-class Pinay

INTERNATIONAL teen star Lalaine Vergara takes another step—this time back home—sporting her favorite Skechers sneakers as the image model of Filipino fashion boutique Sari-Sari.

Beginning November, the 17-year-old Lalaine has been seen in all window displays of all Sari-Sari outlets all over the country in her vibrant, up-to-the-minute sense of style. Her pictures show a collection of funky yet classy teen fashion courtesy of Sari-Sari matched with sporty Skechers footwear.

Before taking her own country by storm, the young Filipino-American beauty had already earned shrieks from teenagers from other parts of the globe, following the success of the Disney Channel show "Lizzie McGuire" where she played Lizzie's best friend, Miranda Isabella Sanchez.

Lalaine started to dabble in acting at a very young age, playing Eponine and Cosette in the Broadway hit musical "Les Miserables" and doing voices for hit flicks such as "Mrs. Santa Claus," "Inspector Gadget," "Lolita" and "Babe."

Her talent also brought her various commercials for Burger King, Barbie, Quaker Oats and Microsoft.

She recently guest-starred on the cult hit "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" as the slayer-in-training Chloe, and has been chosen by the California youth program "Power Play" as its spokesperson, after NBA star Shaquille O'Neal.

She is also involved in various charity events, performing in such shows as the AIDS benefit concert, 'N Sync's Challenge for the Youth, Ronald McDonald Charity, Children United International and other young people's organizations.

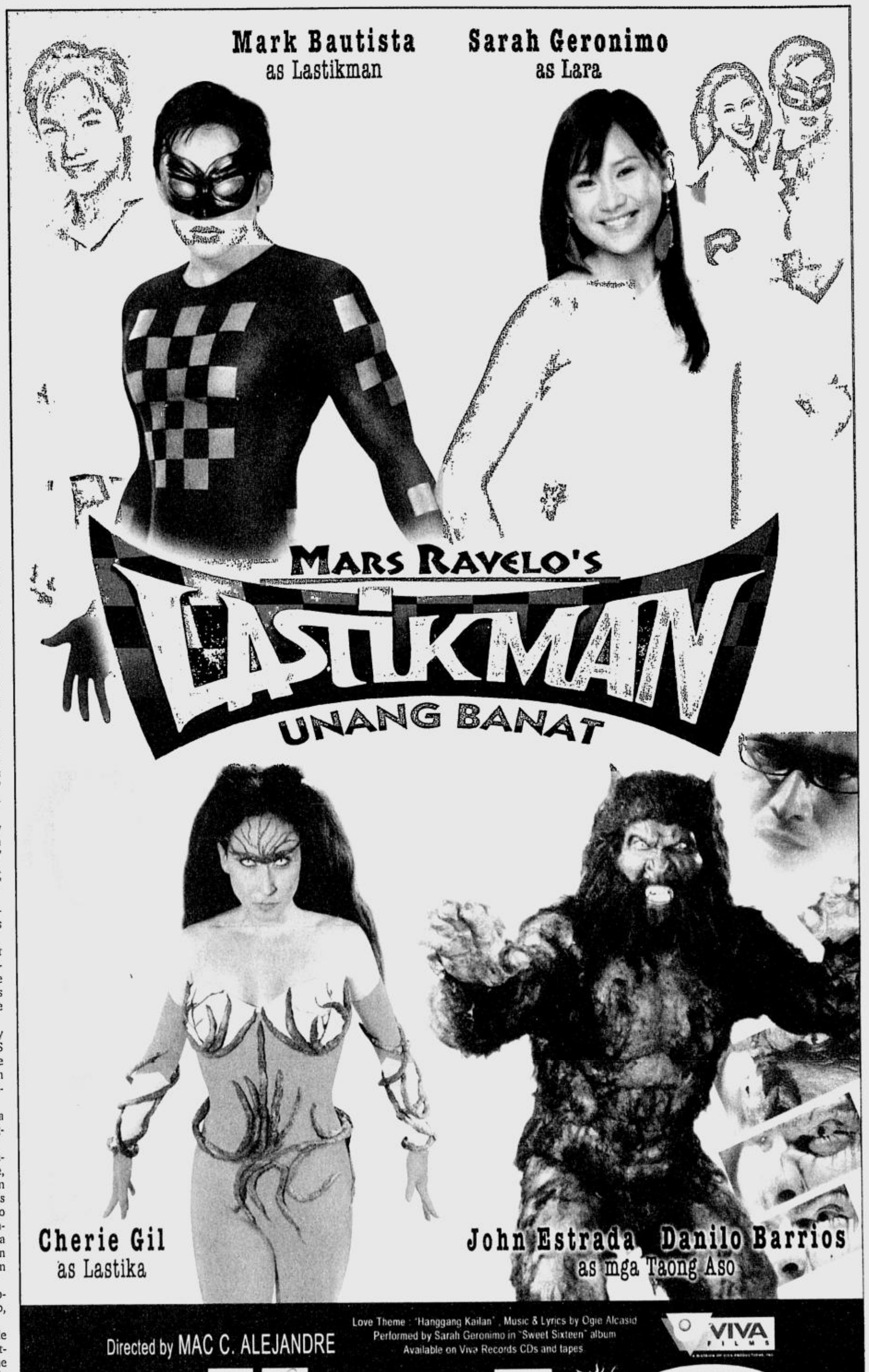
Her love for charity work has earned her a place in Teen People's list of 20 Teens Changing the World.

"I visit hospitals all the time—spontaneously," she says on her official website, www.lalaine.net, which averages five million hits a month. "Not for a 'Disney Day,' not as 'Miranda Sanchez,' just as myself. I like to show up at hospitals and visit sick kids without them knowing I'm coming, so that it's a special surprise. They get so excited and even get up out of bed. I'm probably making them feel good, but they also make me feel good."

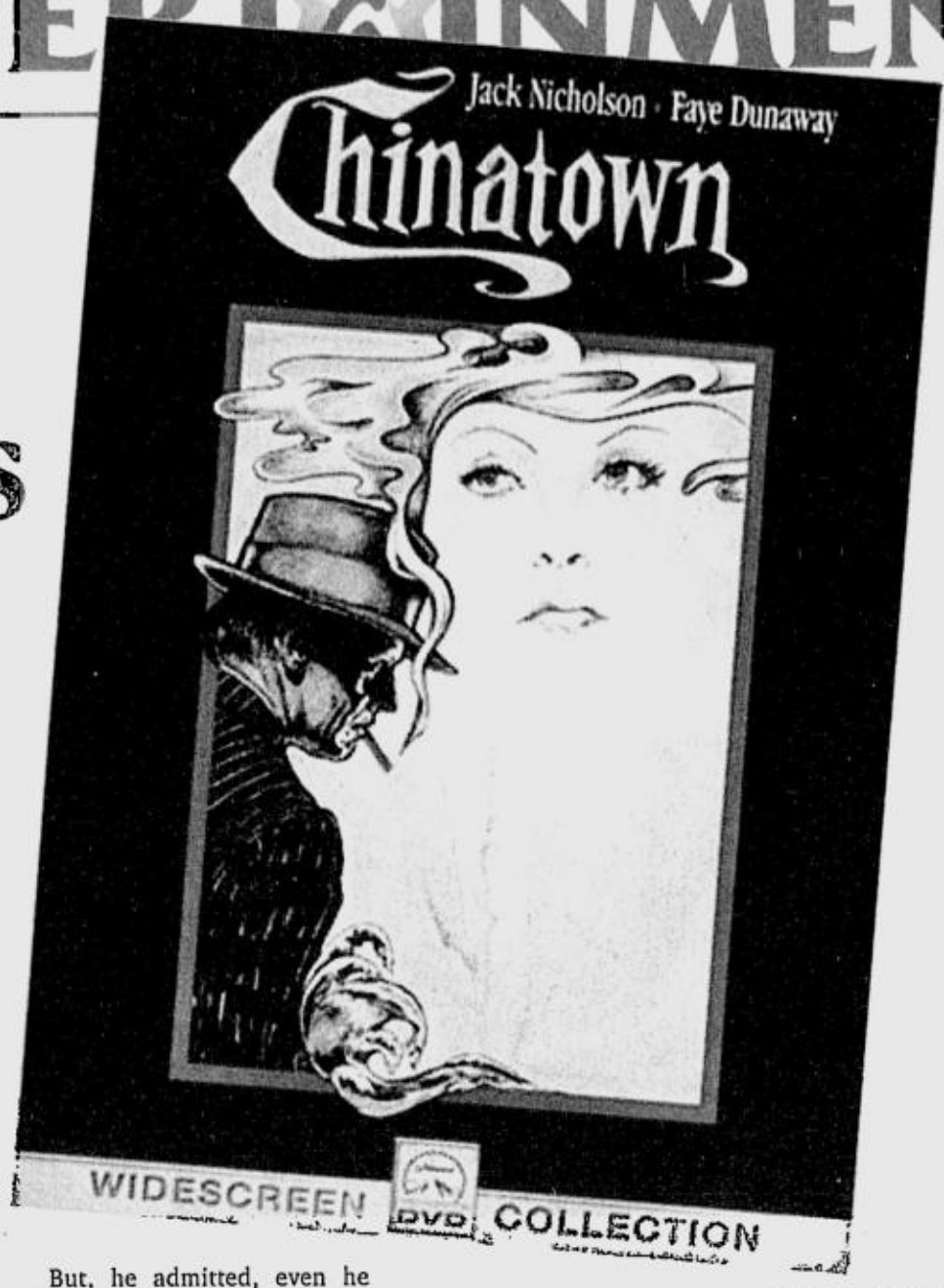
She has already landed on the pages of People, Seventeen, Teen People, Popstars, Bop, and Ignite, just to name a few publications.

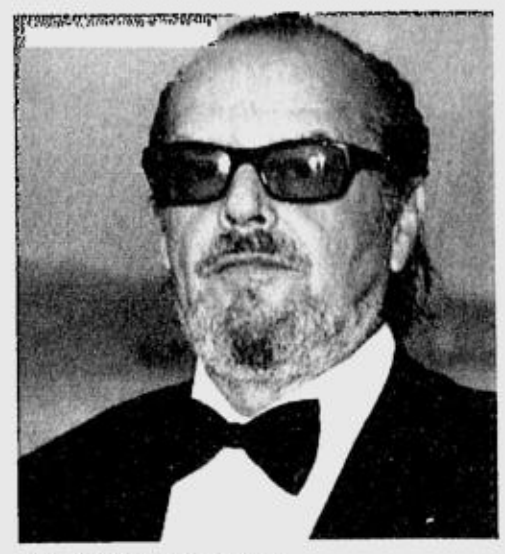
Lalaine showed more of her sense of style when she hosted "Flipside," a fun and lighthearted look at the Philippines through the fresh eyes of a young Filipino-American *balikbayan*. The show premiered last Oct. 12 on the Living Asia Channel.

Skechers celebrates the achievements of Lalaine, who epitomizes the true world-class beauty, talent and character of a Filipina. Skechers is available in leading department stores and specialty shops all over the country.



Four men and one of Hollywood's greatest movies




JACK NICHOLSON, star

ROBERT EVANS, producer

LOS ANGELES—Thirty years after a broken Jack Nicholson was escorted off a blood-soaked street with the warning "Forget it, Jake. It's Chinatown," the movie's portrayal of dark, capitalist evil corrupting sunny Los Angeles remains as vivid as ever.

SHOW STOPPER

What is hard to believe, even after three decades, is the arguments and obstacles that "Chinatown," one of Hollywood's greatest movies, had to overcome to get made, even at a time when Watergate and Vietnam were forcing Americans to examine their society's values.

Nowadays, the movie which blends "film noir" thriller with a tale of incest and municipal corruption—the theft of water from rural communities to make the desert of Los Angeles bloom into valuable real estate—seems so perfect that it is studied in film schools.

But four of the men who made the movie—producer Robert Evans, screenwriter Robert Towne, assistant director Hawk Koch and star Jack Nicholson—gathered on the stage of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently to regale an audience of industry insiders with the troubles they had.

He didn't know anything

Evans set the tone at the unusual reunion.

He wouldn't let scriptwriter Towne sit next to him on the stage, setting tongues wagging that a feud continues after all these years.

All that he was doing, however, was saving the seat for Nicholson, who turned up as a surprise guest.

To hear Evans tell it, he was the only one at Paramount Pictures who thought he knew what Towne, director Roman Polanski and Nicholson were up to with the film.

But, he admitted, even he didn't really know.

"If there were 500 people working at Paramount, 500 people thought it was the worst thing they'd ever read in their lives," Evans said.

"I said, I don't understand it, but so what? How can I lose?"

He was referring to having hired Hollywood's hottest director, Polanski, and one of its rising stars, Nicholson.

The film's plot drew from everything—Towne's fight to stop a housing development to a magazine article he read about Los Angeles in the 1930s to an exposé about how officials diverted water from other areas to ensure Los Angeles' growth.

Topping that off was Towne's friendships with an incest victim and a vice cop who told him he couldn't make arrests in Chinatown because local officials had been bought off.

Writing battles

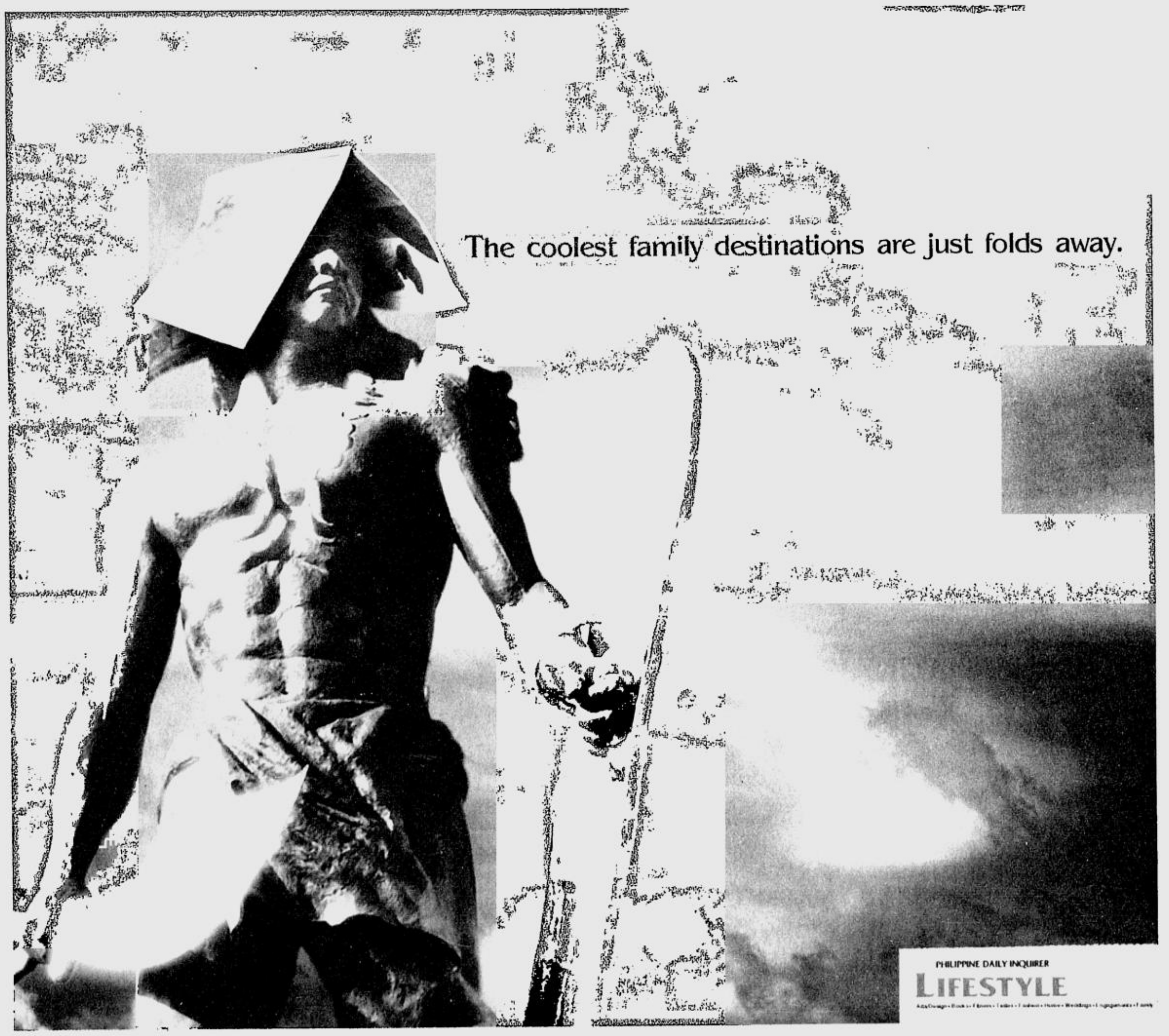
The screenwriter cheerfully admitted he and Polanski had titanic battles over every aspect of his script during the day—but that didn't cut into their partying at night.

The men are still friends, and Towne credits Polanski for many of the touches that turned "Chinatown" into what Richard Schickel, Time magazine's film critic and the evening's moderator, calls "a perfect accident, one of the great American films of the last 30 years."

For example, it was Polanski who insisted that the ending be changed so that John Huston's evil capitalist Noah Cross triumphs, while his daughter, Evelyn Mulray, played by Faye Dunaway, gets a bullet through her head on a Chinatown street.

Towne had wanted a more upbeat ending: Cross killed by the daughter with whom he had fathered a child, followed by a courtroom scene in which she

FOUR/ A38



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2-1

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Don't miss your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

Keep Osang out of 'The Buzz,' GMA 7 tells ABS-CBN

By Nini Valera

GMA 7 has taken legal steps to prevent the appearance of its contract star Rosanna Roces on the ABS-CBN show biz talk show "The Buzz" today (Sunday).

Dick Perez, assistant vice president for legal of GMA 7, told INQUIRER Entertainment he had written ABS-CBN executives Charo Santos-Concio and Cory Vidanes a letter demanding the network to refrain from putting Roces, a former host of GMA 7's "Startalk," on ABS-

KEEP/ A2-3

ROSANNA ROCES, for breach of contract

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Per DTI -NCR Permit No. 3017, Series of 2004

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WITH THE STARS

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All You
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Concert King Martin Nievera and
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Part 1 - SAT DEC. 18, 7:00 PM
Part 2 - FRI DEC. 24, 7:00 PM

4 people killed as man fires at heavy metal band, fans

COLUMBUS—A man charged on stage and opened fire at a heavy metal band and fans at a crowded bar, killing four people and wounding two others before being killed by police, officials said on Thursday.

Among the dead was "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, guitarist for the band Damageplan, who witnesses said appeared to have been singled out by the gunman and shot several times at close range.

Some witnesses told police the 25-year-old gunman, Nathan Gale of nearby Marysville, Ohio, shouted, "You broke up Pantera" before gunning down Abbott and firing at other band members and the crowd in the Wednesday night shooting.

Pantera was a hot Grammy-nominated "thrash" metal band in the mid-1990s that Abbott, 38, and his brother, drummer Vinnie (Paul) Abbott, formed in the 1980s. The group, from Texas, had a bitter breakup after their last album in 2000, and the Abbotts formed Damageplan, which was on tour when the shooting happened.

"There was no connection between (Gale) and the band, at least formally," Columbus Police spokesman Sgt. Brent Mall told reporters outside the club, the Alrosa Villa. "We do not know the motive and maybe never will. He is dead."

Gale fired more than a dozen shots both at the band and the crowd of roughly 200 patrons, at one point stopping to reload his handgun with an ammunition clip, police said.

First song

A police officer confronted Gale as he held a hostage in a headlock and was apparently attempting to flee, Mall said.

The officer, James Niggemeyer, killed Gale as the hostage, who was not harmed, struggled to get out of the way.

"We believe he saved other lives" by shooting the gunman, said the officer.

Two people who were wounded were taken to a hospital.

The band was playing the first song of its set when the gunman, wearing a hooded sweatshirt, charged the stage and began shouting and shooting, witnesses said. Some members of the audience initially thought the intruder might have been part of the band's act.

Pantera topped the US album charts with its 1994 release, "Far Beyond Driven," which also yielded a Grammy nomination.

"Dimebag" Abbott's guitar work made him a "seminal figure in modern speed metal," one who was influenced by the likes of Kiss' Ace Frehley and the late Randy Rhoads of Ozzy Osbourne's band, said Michael Molenda, editor-in-chief at Guitar Player magazine.

Fast, abrasive

In the early 1980s, speed metal became the most popular form of heavy metal in the American underground. Crossing the New Wave of British heavy metal with hardcore US punk, speed metal was extremely fast and abrasive.

Led by Metallica, Megadeth, Anthrax, and Slayer, this new wave of metal bands stood in direct contrast with the pop-oriented "glam" metal that dominated the charts during the 1980s, and they cultivated dedicated followings, according to the website Allmusic.com.

Pantera's songs were played regularly at the arena of the National Hockey League Dallas Stars during the team's 1999 championship season, and the Abbott brothers were friends with several team members.

After Pantera's break-up, the brothers formed Damageplan with singer Pat Lachman and bassist Bob Zilla. The band's debut album, "New Found Power", was hailed for its "violent dissonance" by Blender magazine—hit No. 38 on the US charts earlier this year. *Reuters*

Film fest goes to Dagupan

PELIKULA at Kultura, a national touring film festival organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and implemented by Mowelfund Film Institute, goes on its last leg of provincial screenings for the year in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, on Dec. 14-17.

Since it was launched in Bacolod City last July with a tribute to Peque Gallaga, NCCA's provincial film outreach program has visited 15 sites that include cities like Silay, Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, Cagayan de Oro, South Cotabato, General Santos, Bohol and communities in Leon, Guimbal and Miag-ao in Iloilo, Boracay in Aklan and Pololomok in South Cotabato.

There will be Christmas screenings for students in UP Diliman and for children in Tondo.

Nick Deocampo's new digital documentary, "Edades: Victorio C. Edades and Modernism in Philippine Art," will be featured in the Dagupan festival as a tribute to Edades, National Artist for Visual Arts who hailed from Bolosan, Dagupan City. Screenings are set at the Nepo Mall starting Dec. 15 prior to a campus tour.

There will be a panel at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16 to discuss Edades' modernist contributions in painting with art scholar Alice Guillermo, artist Sid Hildawa, and Deocampo.

Also featured is the exhibit "Liongoren Four: Alfredo, Erik, Avid, Hannah," of the family of gallery owner Norma Liongoren at the Dagupan Museum on Dec. 16.

Keep Osang out of 'The Buzz,'...

From page A2-1

CBN's "The Buzz" where she is supposed to talk about the pregnancy of her daughter Grace Adriano and her breakup with longtime live-in partner Tito Molina.

Perez said GMA 7 had received reports that Osang would appear live on "The Buzz" today (Sunday).

He said Osang's breach of her contract with the network has been referred to GMA 7's external lawyers.

"We are taking action against her for noncompliance of her contract," Perez said, "and against ABS-CBN for contractual interference."

Perez said he informed ABS-CBN of Roces' contract, which prohibits her from appearing in a program with the same format as "Startalk" and in the same time slot on any other channel without permission from GMA 7. That includes "The Buzz," hosted by Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino, and similar programs on other stations, Perez stressed.

Osang—Roces' nickname—has been in breach of her contract with GMA 7 since she stopped appearing on "Startalk" earlier this year after the rumor of Grace's pregnancy spread. She had accused co-host and her then-manager Lolit Solis and former friend Dr. Viki Belo of starting the rumor.

Osang had consistently and angrily denied the rumor to the media. The issue has since resulted in legal charges and counter charges among the three women.

But last Wednesday, Osang admitted to INQUIRER Entertainment that she had lied about Grace's pregnancy to protect her daughter, who she said had wanted to keep it a secret.

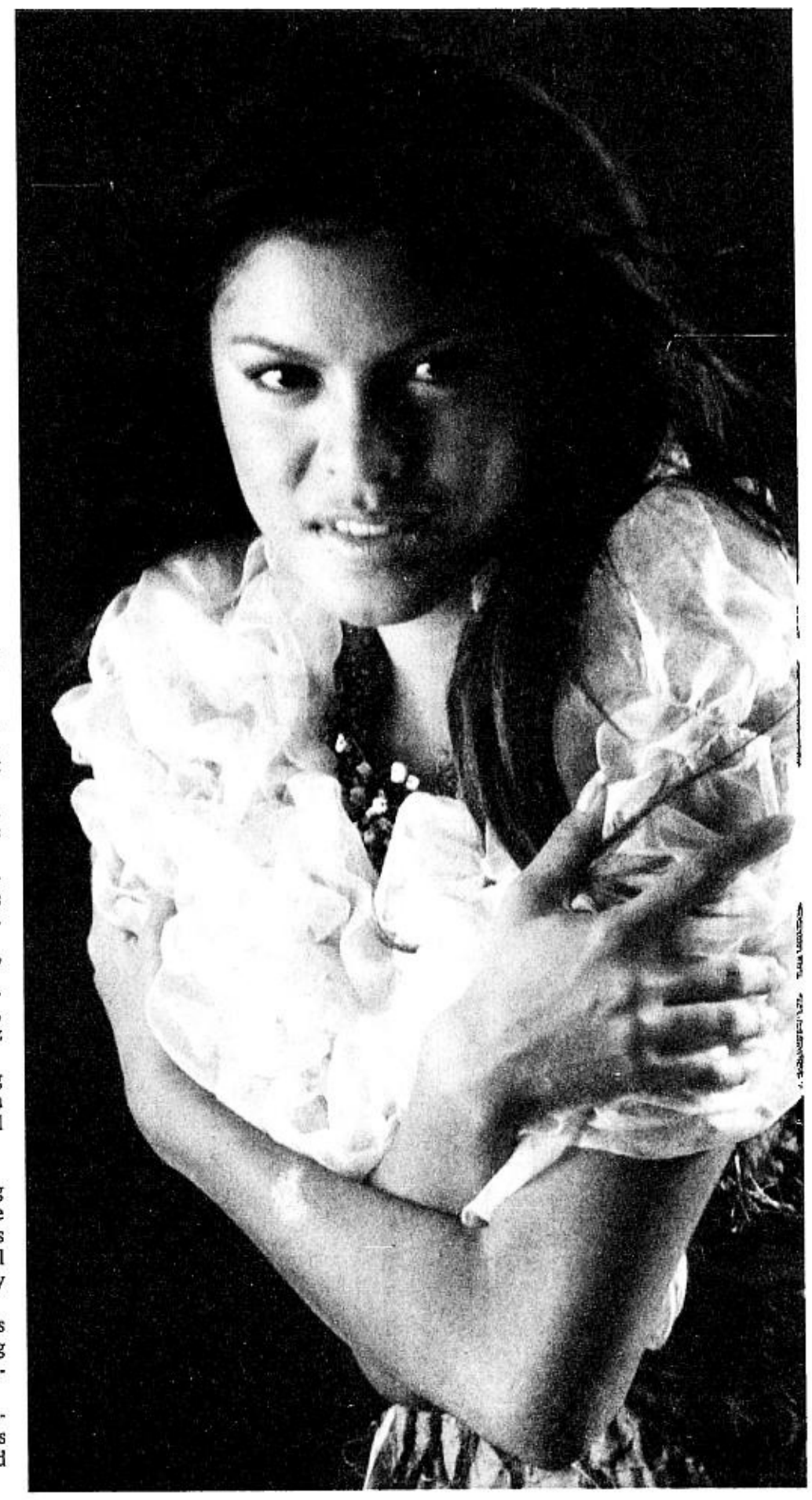
The former talk show host also apologized for keeping the truth away even as she admitted that Grace is pregnant with the child of Jolo Revilla, son of actor-Sen. Bong Revilla and actress Lani Mercado.

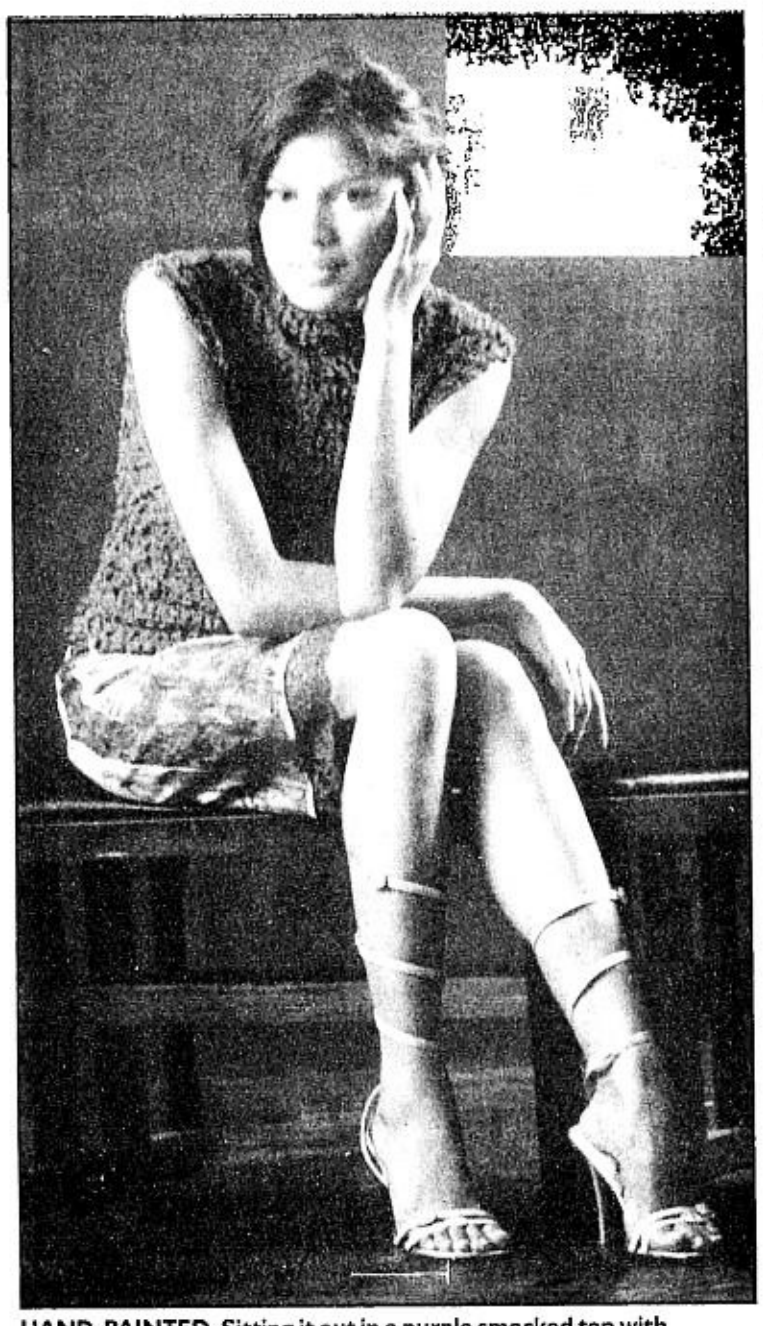
Both Grace and Jolo are 16 years old.

Perez said Osang's contract with GMA 7 is binding and she can only appear on other channels with the permission of GMA 7.

Osang has been avoiding interviews with news crews of both GMA 7 and ABS-CBN, who began hounding her since Grace's pregnancy was confirmed last week.

Juliana emerges in Silk Cocoon





By Larry Leviste
Contributor

LIKE a brilliant butterfly, actress and talk show host ("Secrets," on ABC 5) Juliana Palermo emerges wearing Silk Cocoon by Jeannie Goulborne.

"I love these outfits by Katrina Goulborne, which are sexy yet classy," coos Juliana. "That's what I'm all about. I think the sexiest part of a man is his brains."

Juliana has a high IQ and is outspoken, in perfect English. She was raised in Los Angeles and also went to school there.

After winning a Miss Davao title, the *morena* beauty, who stands 5-foot-7 and measures 36-26-36, was snubbed by Binibining Pilipinas as a candidate.

"Maybe because I said I was a sexy actress," laughs Juliana as she recalls being screened. This happened last February after her movie, "www.xxx.com," by director Tikoy Aguiluz was shown.

"But I'm still young," she adds. "Binibining Pilipinas has to give me a chance. I'll keep on applying till they take me. They'll have to deal with me for six more years."

Juliana is 19.

We can't help but admire Juliana for caring for her handicapped younger brother. "I have taken it upon myself to be responsible for his welfare," she says. "If a man courts me, he will have to consider that I am devoted to my brother first."

Juliana is excited to be in this month's Metro Manila Film Festival. She plays leading lady to Cesar Montano in "Panaghoy sa Suba," which the actor also directs.

In this exclusive spread, Juliana wears creations by Silk Cocoon, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary today. Congratulations and many more years to come!

HAND-PAINTED. Sitting it out in a purple smocked top with lace-inserted hand-painted satin skirt (above), and standing proud in jusi and tulle blouse and embroidered pants (below).

LIKE A BUTTERFLY, she comes out in a ruffled shrug shawl with satin ribbon over a tasseled tube dress (above and right).

BROWN GODDESS wears a one-shouldered tunic encrusted with beads, and worn with pants

STYLING BY LARRY LEVISTE
PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
HAIRSTYLES AND MAKEUP BY AGATHA OF SALON DE YSABEL
FASHION AND ACCESSORIES BY JM GOULBORNE FOR SILK COCOON AT THE NEW WORLD HOTEL ARCADE

SITTING PRETTY on a peacock-blue silk blouse and another hand-painted skirt

Pixar, DreamWorks gear for box-office battle

LOS ANGELES—Computer animation pioneers Pixar and DreamWorks have set the stage for a potentially bruising box office battle after both studios changed their schedules this week to target summer releases, analysts said on Thursday.

Pixar Animation Studios Inc., creator of hits from "Toy Story" to "The Incredibles," said on Tuesday it would move the theatrical release of its films to summer with DVD releases to follow during the holiday season.

The next day, DreamWorks Animation SKG, home of "Shrek" and "Shark Tale," said it would shift expected blockbuster "Shrek 3" from November 2006 to June 2007, and that the company generally planned on theatrical releases in its second and fourth quarters.

"There is concern... there's going to be a flood of product in the market," DreamWorks chief executive Jeffrey Katzenberg told analysts this week.

"I think 2006 is the anomaly, the one year in which there seems to be more product than in any other year to date," he said. "In 2007, it recedes back down."

Some analysts see a risk of overcrowding.

"Both DreamWorks and Pixar expect to have early summer releases in 2006 and 2007, and while this is not a disastrous scenario, we think it is an incremental negative for both companies," Banc of America analysts said in a note to clients.

Fulcrum Global Partners analyst Richard Greenfield said that while summer releases generally garnered better returns, head-to-head competition in theaters and in DVD releases would hurt the profitability of both companies.

Lower average for all

"We believe the beginning of an annual summer movie 'war' in 2006 does not bode well for either company, with ego... playing far too great a role in decision-making," Greenfield said in a note to clients.

Noting that other major Hollywood studios planned forays into animation, Prudential Equity Group analyst Katherine Styponias also said more players "could result in lower average box office for all players."

But others said moviegoers' appetite for family fare seems to be endless, and that the timing of movie releases tends to be less important than appealing to the right audience.

Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations, noted the nearly simultaneous releases of "Polar Express," "The Incredibles," "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Shark Tale" this fall did not appear to have hurt the studios that distributed them.

All but "SpongeBob," the most recent release, have reached at least $100 million in ticket sales despite having debuted within six weeks of each other.

Perfect audience

"It almost seems like a family film audience is almost an inexhaustible resource," Dergarabedian said. "Kids will come and see them, and they will see them all."

Unlike adults, whose decision to see movies could rest on word-of-mouth or box office totals, children "don't care about the money or the reviews," Dergarabedian said. "Kids are the perfect audience if you can grab them with the marketing."

Another factor aiding DreamWorks and Pixar in an increasingly crowded marketplace was the strong and mainly positive reputation of their computer-generated creations, said Animation magazine editor in chief Ramin Zahed.

"People are familiar with the brand and know that when they go to their movies, this is what they are going to get," Zahed said. "There is a school of thought that believes that if you make good movies, people will find them." *Reuters*

UNHURT. The nearly simultaneous releases of such recent animated films as "The Incredibles" (above), "Polar Express," "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Shark Tale" did not appear to have hurt the studios that distributed them, according to a box office tracking firm.

Kids share in Nick's 'Big Help Christmas Run' today

KIDS get a chance to share with the less fortunate by participating in Nickelodeon's "Big Help Christmas Run!" today, 4:30 to 7 p.m., at the Lopez Parking Lot of the Rockwell Center in Makati.

Nickelodeon launched The Big Help, a campaign which gives kids an outlet to help in their community. Nick introduced six basic actions: Visit, Fix, Clean, Give, Share and Care.

In 2003, Big Help gave children a chance to win a four-minute grab-all-you-can "toy run" at a toy store. While the children kept the toys, the cash value equivalent of what they picked was matched by Nickelodeon and given to Springboard Foundation for its Give-a-Life project.

Nick's donation aided kids who needed medical assistance. The pediatric ward of Ospital ng Maynila was renovated into a Nick room with new bunk beds for babies, colorful curtains and Nick toys.

This year, Big Help focuses on the action word "Share." Nick is sharing the love with the Banago kids of Negros Occidental through a tree-lighting ceremony. The children will run around the Nick-mas tree for one lap and press the "detonator" that says Share! Once this is pressed, an ornament from the tree lights up with a subsequent donation given by Nick to the children of Banago Seaport.

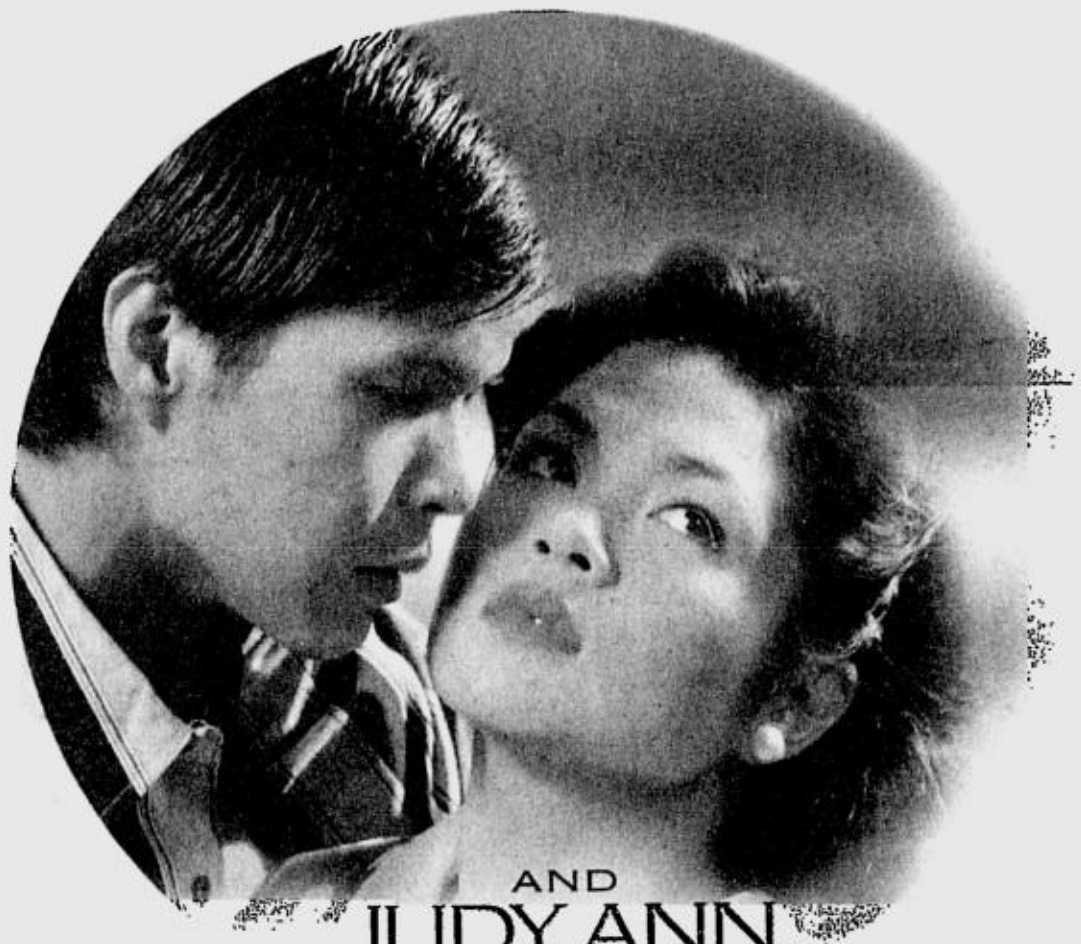
The children will be made to "jump up and down, walk backwards, run around, sing a Christmas carol, do a cartwheel, tumble twice or walk like a duck and run with a quack!"

The children can also look forward to games and activities like Christmas Me!, a human tree decorating contest, and Christmas Crayolers!, where kids can create their very own Nickmas card.

After the tree-lighting ceremony, the children will be joined by Chuckie and Angelica from the Rugrats together with celebrities like Bettina Carlos of Stages, GMA-7 and Trumpets, and 2004 Star Awards Best New Female TV Personality Ailyn Luna, Trumpets/Playshop artist.

Kids who show up in their best Christmas-inspired costumes win prizes. The first 500 to register will receive exclusive Nickelodeon The Big Help Internet cards.

Nickelodeon's The Big Help Christmas Run is co-presented by Selecta. It is also brought in cooperation with McDonald's, Smart Kid, Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs, B and B! For more info, log on to www.nicksplat.com.

ANG PINAKAMAKASAYSAYANG KWENTO NG TAON NASA MYGLOBE NA!
TEXT 1941 TO 2346
RAYMART SANTIAGO
JAY MANALO
DENNIS TRILLO
ANITA LINDA
Ms. JACLYN JOSE
ANGELU DE LEON
TJ TRINIDAD
IYA VILLANIA
MARCO ALCARAZ
YASMIEN KURDI

AND
JUDY ANN SANTOS
AISHITE MASU
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A FILM BY JOEL LAMANGAN, DGPI
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www.regal-aishiteimasu.com
'tis the season to make great things possible Globe

'Good Finds' helps you shop till you drop

IT'S THE thrill of the hunt, the excitement of the chase, the rapture brought by a great discovery that you absolutely adore and feel is worth every penny.

And starting this December, Lifestyle Network is getting it all on tape, in its first ever locally produced television show, "Good Finds."

Lifestyle Network will show you how you can up your va-voom level with a little bling, dress for success, or seduction, without breaking the bank, and help you pull your undeniably adorable but sadly ignorant loved one out of the fashion faux pas vortex—in the largest of malls, the smallest of bazaars, and the most obscure of boutiques.

We'll present options. We'll give you ideas. We'll get you the inside scoop.

Call it the Mecca of smart shoppers. Think of it as the ultimate buyer's guide. Know that it is a well informed, highly entertaining, and immensely practical 30-minute shopping expedition on air.

It's a hint of things to come from the Lifestyle Network, which aims to produce more TV shows attuned to what women want—a smart combination of style and substance that the five-year-old cable channel has become famous for.

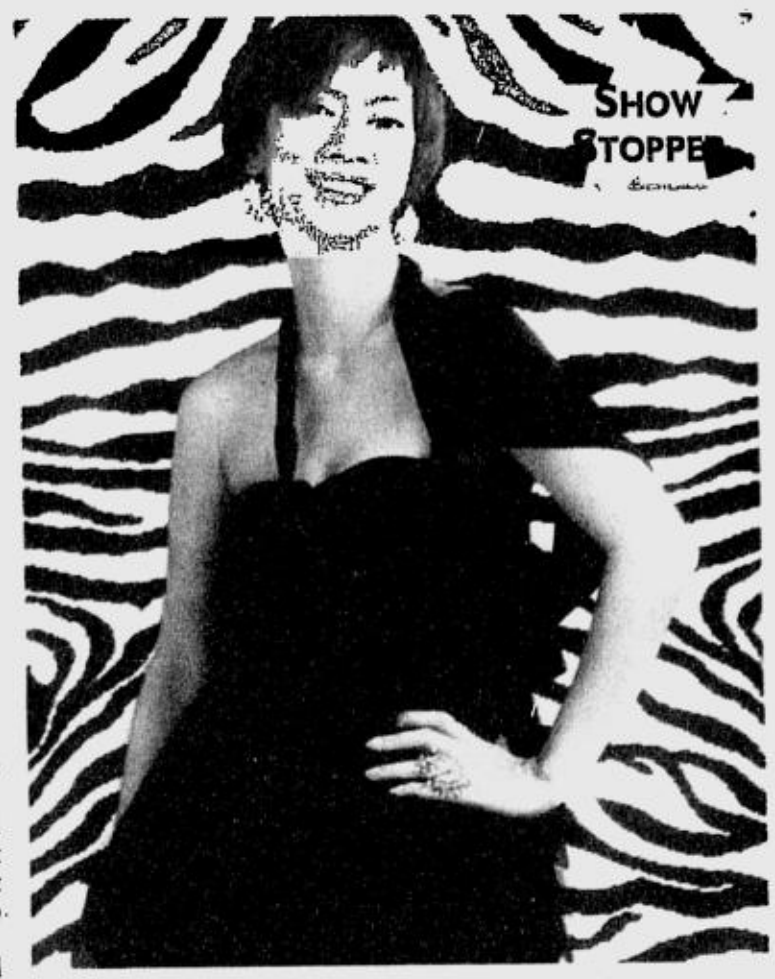
"Good Finds" takes that vision a notch higher and puts it in a local setting through professional shopper and stylist Jenni Epperson.

"Forget about land, water and air," says Jenni, a walking shopping directory. "When I shop, I'm in my elements. I feel off the frenzy."

It's a passion that has made Jenni one of the top stylists in the country today, catering to the chic sensibilities of corporate giants like McDonald's, Globe and Shell, fashion magazines Metro, Chalk, Preview and Mega, as well as Bayo and Vera Wang on the runway.

It is also a passion that Jenni and the "Good Finds" team bring to the show, a passion that speaks of enthusiasm, laughter and a great deal of research—mostly conducted, much to our delight, in boutiques and malls.

Which is what shopping is really all about—a dash of "ooh!" a pinch of "what if?" and a dose of "eureka!"



JENNI EPPERSON, walking shopping directory, hosts the new Lifestyle Network show.

All-Digital Cinemas

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Rainier Castillo & Yasmien Kurdi
Directed by Freddie Santos

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Activity Center

Reserved seats for the first 200 shoppers with an accumulated P300 purchase from Market! Market! on December 15
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Aladdin & Jasmine Get Starstruck!

Sony Music

MARKET! MARKET!

MUTYA NG NAVOTAS
Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco receives the candidates of the Mutya ng Navotas 2005 in his municipal hall office. The annual beauty pageant is part of the celebration of Araw ng Navotas in January. The pageant started in 2000 and is spearheaded by the Office of the Mayor, the Cultural and Tourism Office, the Association of Barangay Captains, the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation and the Public Information Office. Coronation of the winners will be on Jan. 15, 2005.

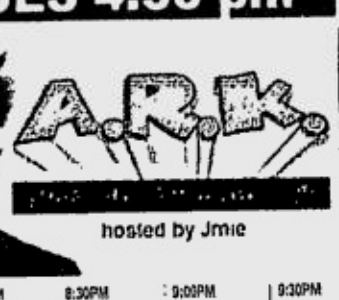
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, December 12, 2004

SUNDAYS 4:00 pm

MON-TUES 4:30 pm



ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2		SCQ Reload		The Buzz			Rated K			Wansapanataym			Ang Tanging Ina		Sunday Family Cinema				The Weekend News
NBN		Value Vision						Go For Gold											Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA						Musapni Cup 2003				Gold & Glory In Greco				ASC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love			S-Files			Noks	Mel & Joey	Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du	Viva Cine Idols	Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama			Road Trip	Smackdown		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		In This Corner		Iyo Ang Katarungan		The Working President	A Second Look
IBC 13	V League						Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network		Pinoy Action Hits				Pride FC				Slamball	
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown			Romeo	WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Double Decker				The Ren & Stimpy Show	The Wild Thornberrys
Nickelodeon	Double Decker				Sabrina The Teenage Witch		Take 5	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Yakkity Yak	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	Danny Phantom	All Grown Up	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX		Meet My Folks	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	For Love Or Money		Nip/ Tuck		Dateline	
ETC		Dateline		Star Search			My MYX	NBC Nightly News	What I Like About You	The O.C.		Miss World Part 1	Simple Life 2			Hart Ng Solda			
Cinema One				Trip				Daniel Mary Isang Ikaw				Milan		Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour	Mutant X		
Studio 23	OPM MYX Countdown	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	SpotLight TV		Hotwire			Survivor Vanuatu		Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	CSI: Miami		The 4400		The Amazing Race	
AXN		Arlington Road						Top Gear		The Amazing Race		Fear Factor		The X-Files		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
Star World		My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance		The Apprentice			Business Week Asia	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts		The Simpsons	The Kumars At No 42	Oprah Prime Time		World News	Next@CNN	Global Challenges		Talk Asia	World Sport
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Next@CNN		Larry King Live	Travel Asia		World News	Talk Asia	World News	People In The News	Secrets Unveiled		Innovation	CNN Business Traveler	Samsung Best Of The Week	
National Geographic	On Assignment	Innovation		Samsung Best Of The Week			Wild Horizons	Wild Orphans		Through The Lens		Megastructures		Sacramento vs. Indiana (replay)				Manny Pacquiao vs. JK Battery	
Solar Sports	IBF Hongkong Open '04 LIVE									Override ep'25		NBA Action	NBA TV Daily				Behind The Velvet Ropes	Planet Parent	Molto Mario
Lifestyle Network		Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room		Back To Basics	Bareboat Contessa		Food Network Special		Modern Gel's Guide	Adaptation				Hand Of State (10:40PM)		
HBO			Doc Hollywood (3.35 PM)				Buddy (5:15PM)		Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario		Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets		Antwone Fisher				The Chamber	
Star Movies	Opening Night (2:45 PM)	Femme Fatale (3.15 PM)					Hollywood One On One	Comic Book Villains		Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights (8:45 PM)		Underworld							
Cartoon Network	Dynamud, Dog Wonder	New Scooby & Scrappy-Doo	The Detective Squad	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers		X-Men Evolution	The Powerpuff Girls	Alomlo Baby	Xiaolin Showdown	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	The Looney Tunes Show	Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Wild Force	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	
ESPN	Table Tennis '04 Sponsational	Premier Snooker League '03 Sunderland, England		Premier Snooker League '03 Sunderland, England					Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '04 Holland		Pool/Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland	Eng. Premier Football League 04/05	Pro Billiards '04						
Disney Channel	Pollobos And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	Lion King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack	Viva S Club		Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Lizzie Maguire	Wonderful World Of Disney	My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney		
Cinemax	Mother, May I Sleep With Danger? (3.45 PM)			Scenes Of The Crime (5.15 PM)				A Few Good Men (6.45 PM)				The Life Of David Gale				Anna's Dream (11:05PM)			
Hallmark Channel		Gracie's Choice					Edge Of America			The Inspectors 2: A Shred Of Evidence			Midsomer Murders Ring Out Your Dead				Word Of Honor (10.35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Full Metal Challenge		Science Mysteries			Rides		Mythbusters	Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific	Urban Exploration					Power Zone	
MTV Philippines		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	Wildboyz		The Assistant	MTV Jams			PunkD		World Chart Express	Pimp My Ride					
Sports Plus		NFL							FED Cup SFinal France vs Spain			Raceworld	Get A Grip	Slipstream			Target World Chall Day3		
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Pope Plus XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory		The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dios	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase	The Way To Follow Jesus	Sunday Mass				Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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alas-10 ng gabi!
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Dito lang sa ABC

Bianca, AJ for Pink, Blue Soda

Television Young and personalities Bianca Gonzalez and AJ Dee are the faces in the latest Blue and Pink Soda ad campaign. Bianca is a talented host who is now part of "Y Speak" on ABS-CBN, "Wazzup Wazzup" on Studio 23 and "Review Night" on Cinema One. She will also be seen on "MTV Ubreak." AJ Dee is seen on "MTB," "Yes Yes Show" and "SCQ Reload," all on ABS-CBN. Besides being the Blue and Pink Soda Holiday 2004 collection image models, they are also the faces of Adam and Eve fragrances, also from Blue and Pink Soda.

LEA AT DISCOVERY

Oliver- and Tony-winning singer-actress Lea Salonga heightened the sense of Christmas cheer at the Discovery Suites where the press conference of her homecoming concert, "Home for Christmas," was recently held. Joined by the The CompanY and her younger brother Gerard Salonga, one of the country's most sough-after musical directors, Lea gave a sneak preview of her concert and filled the hotel's Serendipity Lounge with the music of Christmas in her acclaimed crystalline voice.

RACHELLE ANN GO

Platinum girl

RACHELLE Ann Go last week was honored with a platinum record award for the outstanding sales of her self-titled album, "Rachelle Ann Go," which has sold over 30,000 copies since it was released in late July.

The album has already spawned two hit singles, "Don't Cry Out Loud" and "You and Me (We Wanted It All)," her duet with Christian Bautista. The album turned gold after only two months in the market.

The platinum record award came soon after her lauded performance at the "Pinoy Idols" concert at the Araneta Coliseum, the launch of her TV commercial for Smart and her victory at the Shanghai Asia Music Festival early in November where she bested 21 singers from various parts of the world and won the silver prize.

In Shanghai, Rachelle sang two compositions by Vehnee Saturno, "We are One People" and "From the Start." The latter is included in her album and will be her next single release.

The album also contains "Love of My Life," "When You Find Your Voice," "Still in Love with You," "Kung Alam Mo Lang," "Love Won't Let Us Be," "Solitaire," "Dreaming of You," "Here I Am Again," "Give It All," and her "Search for a Star" winning song, "Through the Rain."

'Kapuso sa Pasko' from GMA Records

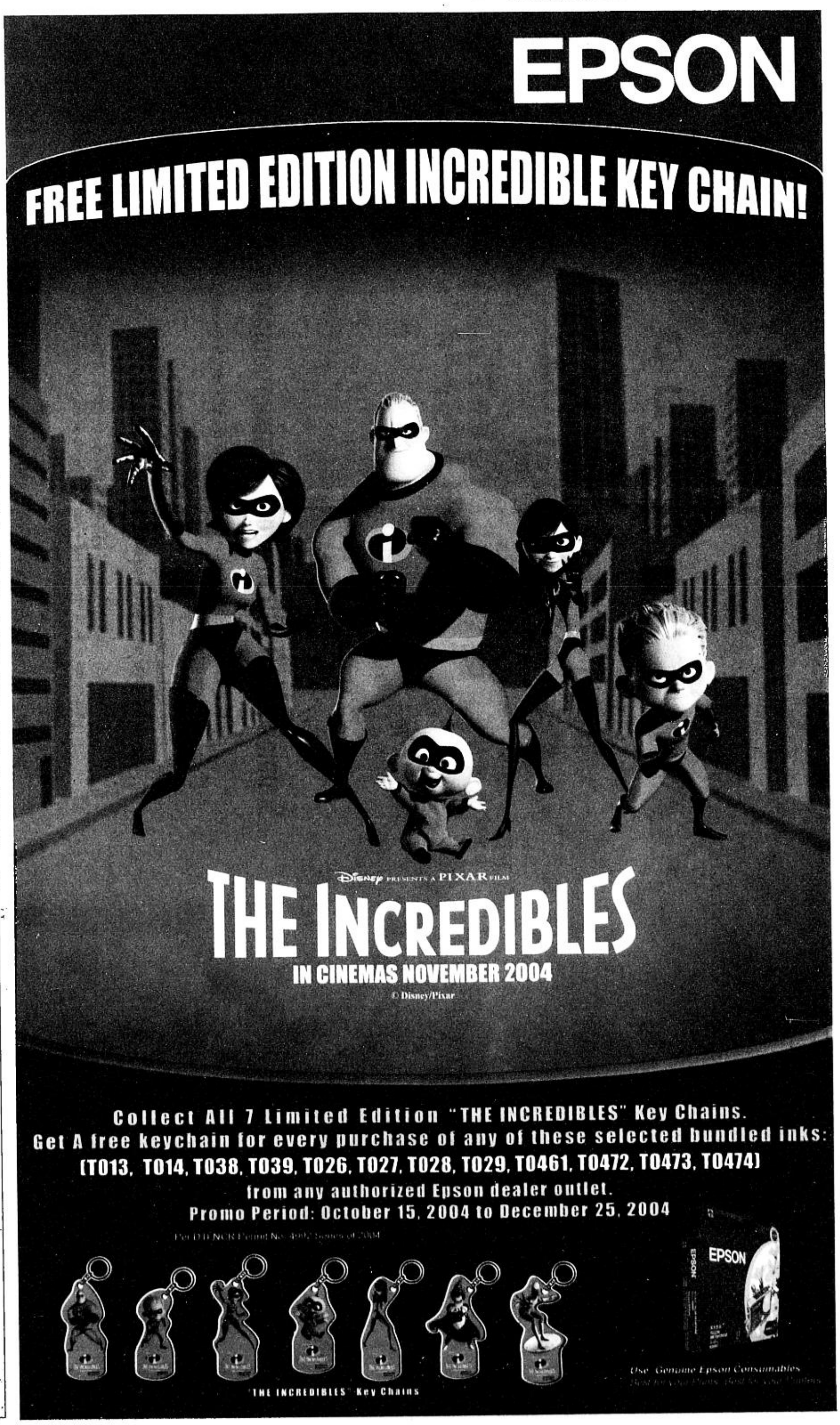
GMA Records has gathered all of its artists in one album to add new color, sound and meaning to the season—"Kapuso sa Pasko."

There are four new songs written especially for this project: "Kapuso sa Pasko" performed by Janno Gibbs, Jolina Magdangal, Jennylyn Mercado, Yasmien Kurdi, Gary Granada, Ghost 13, Sipol, Dimsum and 604; "Pasko ng Kapuso," performed by Jolina Magdangal; "Mga Anghel ni Gloria," a rowdy track performed by Ghost 13; and "Magandang Balita," Gary Granada.

SHOW TIME

Outstanding tracks in the album include Jennylyn Mercado's "It's Christmas All Over The World," Janno Gibbs' "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," 604's "O Come All Y e Faithful," Sipol's "Someday at Christmas," Dimsum's "Silent Night/Holy Night," Jolina Magdangal's "Merry Christmas, Darling" and Yasmien Kurdi's "It's Just Another New Year's Eve."

"Kapuso sa Pasko" is now available on CD and cassette.



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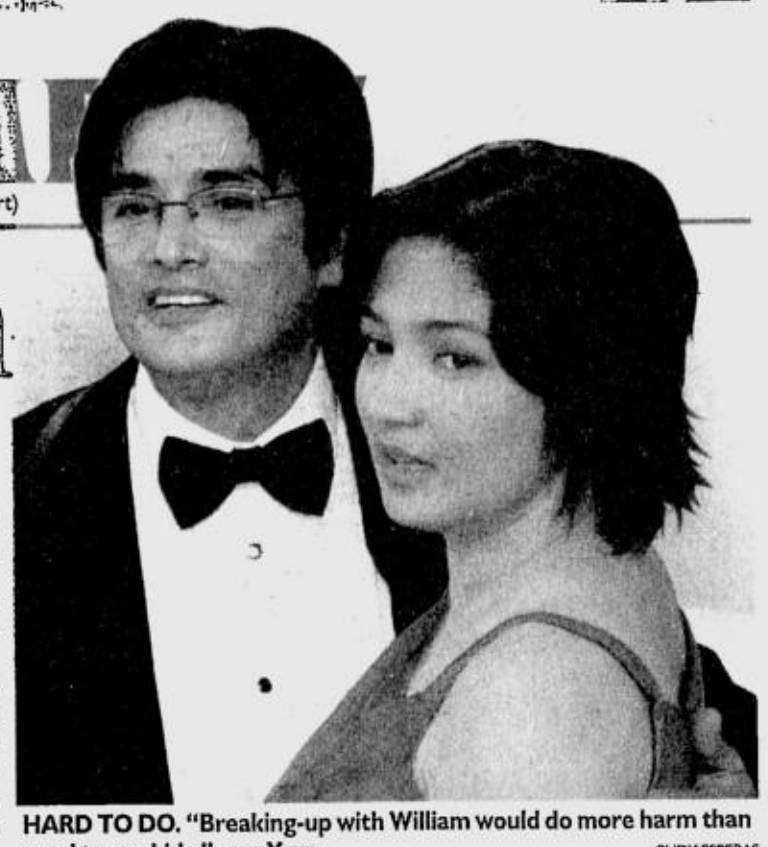
Yayo: Stand by your man



HARD TO DO. "Breaking-up with William would do more harm than good to our kids," says Yayo. RUDY ESPERAS

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Yayo Aguila said she had already prepared her family "emotionally and physically" in case her husband, actor William Martinez, was found guilty of possession of an illegal drug paraphernalia and was sent to jail.

William was arrested last April after he was reportedly caught with a tooter, a three-inch glass tube used to take shabu, at the Centennial Terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

William tested positive for shabu, according to an examination conducted also last April by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. But through it all, Yayo said she never thought of packing her bags and leaving her husband.

"Breaking-up with William would do more harm than good to our kids," she pointed out.

"To all those women who are going through the same experience, just hold on," she added. "Stand by your man. Don't just give up on them. Do whatever you can to keep your family whole. There's no problem too difficult to solve if you're together."

Mixed emotions

"We prepared for the worst," Yayo told INQUIRER Entertainment last Tuesday. "This is a very serious matter. If William went to jail, our children would be the most affected. The kids knew everything that was happening. We never hid the problem from them."

Two of their children—Patricia and Dana—were with William and Yayo when Judge Eleuterio F. Guerrero of the Pasay City regional trial court announced his decision last Tuesday. William was acquitted of the drug charge because the court had found the case "legally weak."

"We're very thankful that the judge ruled in our favor," said Yayo. "We didn't know what to expect. Up to the last moment, we were praying for a positive decision. *Nakabitin kami.*

"So when the decision was read that day, we had mixed emotions. All of us hugged each other and cried, including the judge's staff members who had already become close to us.

"This is the best gift that our family has ever received this Christmas," she added. "We're very thankful that God heard our prayers."

William and Yayo were on their way to Dakak Beach Resort in Zamboanga del Norte in the South when a routine body search at the airport led to the alleged discovery of a tooter.

Possession of drug paraphernalia such as a tooter is punishable by a maximum four-year jail term.

Pillar of strength

William and Yayo were married in 1985 and lived in the United States with their three children, Patricia, Dana and Danielle, for six years. They returned to the Philippines in the late 1990s.

"All of us were with William when the promulgation was read, including his father, mother and sisters," Yayo said. "We celebrated by going to Mass together. Sadly, Albert [William's elder brother] was absent because of work, but his wife Liezl was there."

In an earlier interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Albert described Yayo as "William's pillar of strength."

"Yayo is in control of everything," he had said. "I take my hat off to her for her courage and patience. The family is coping very well because of her."

Yayo said they also received help from their lawyer Salvador Panelo, who "didn't charge us a single centavo."

She said it was Albert who called Panelo about William's case. "Attorney Panelo didn't hesitate to help us, considering that neither Albert nor William was close to him," Yayo pointed out. "Attorney told us 'I'm on your side. *Hindi ko kayo pababayaan.*' And he kept his word."

PIDO AT HIS BEST

/A3-2

FIGHTING OVER PANCIT. Tuesday Vargas and Pokwang

Tuesday, Pokwang face off

/A3-3

Pido at his best in 'Bittersweet'

PIDO Lalimarmo is a familiar and good-looking face in the live band circuit. Already strumming future hits on his guitar when he was 17, Pido became an original member of Side A in the late 1980s before he formed the band Artstart and sang the sweet favorite, "Danielle."

PIDO

After being in a short-lived group, he reemerged in the new millennium's acoustic scene with the band Take One. Now in his late 30s, Pido has finally decided to go solo.

"Bittersweet," a 12-track album produced by the artist himself and released by the independent Acoustic Gold Productions (AGP) and Warner Music, is Pido at his artistic best. It brings to mind the gentle warmth of such soft rock legends as Kenny Loggins and James Taylor, and even of True Faith and Paolo Santos.

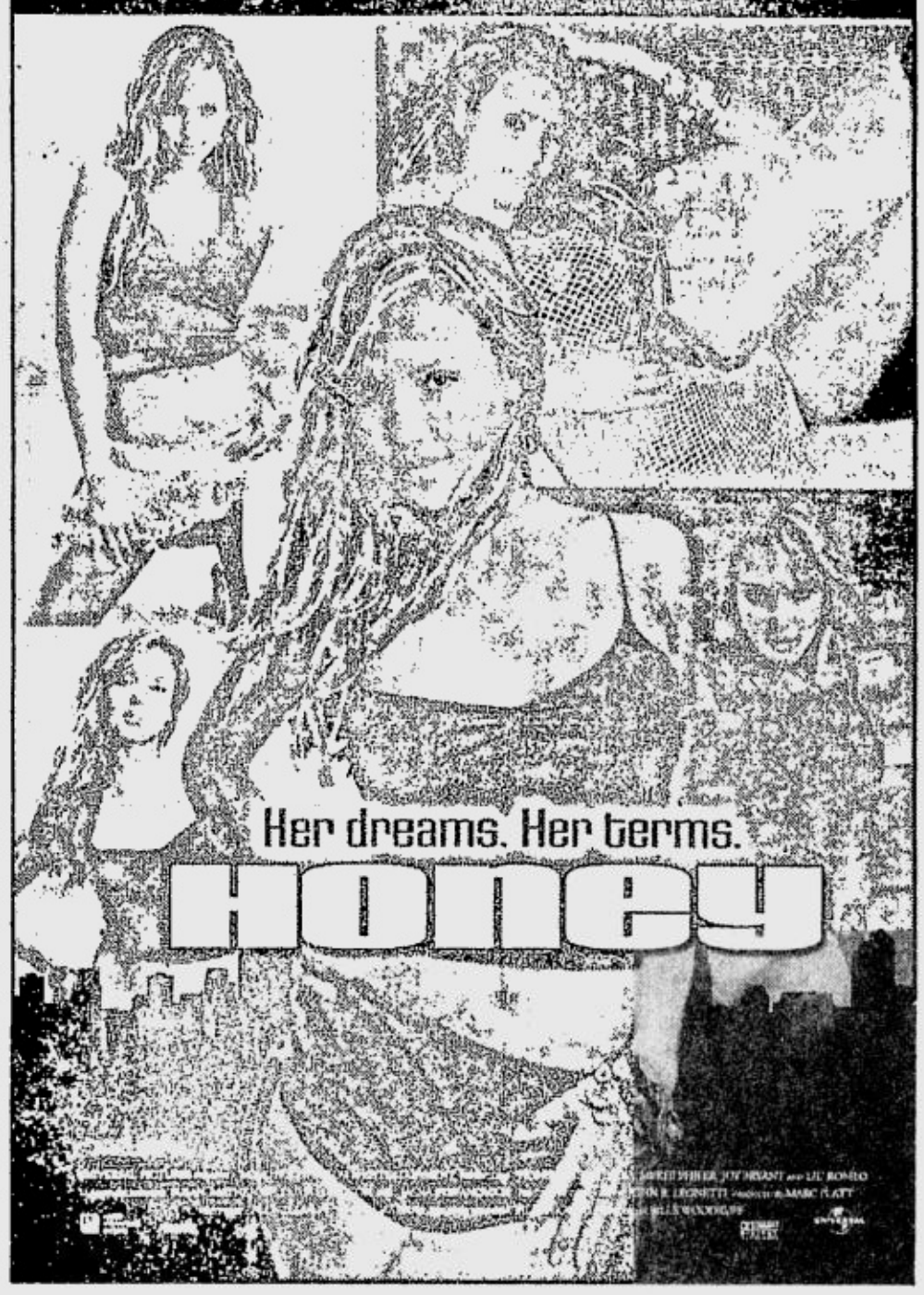
Pido's AGP label mate was the one who inspired Pido to write songs again. "I had not composed in seven years," said Pido. "After jamming with him and hearing his songs, I started writing songs again."

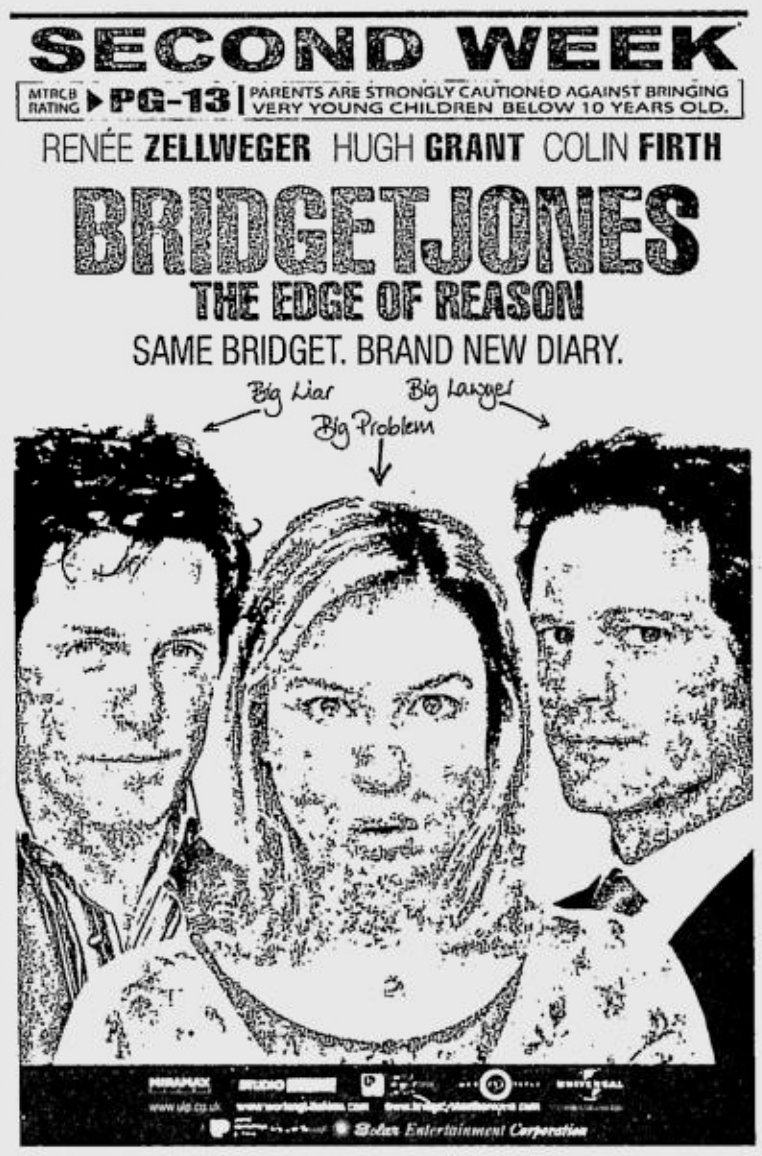
Pido's solo debut is made even more special by collaborations with premiere musicians Paolo Santos, Joey Benin (Side A), Jay Durias and Tata Balane (South Border), Wendell Garcia and Rommel de la Cruz (Barbie's Cradle), Nikki Cabardo (Freestyle), Tots Tolentino, Mike Luis, Mar Dizon and more.

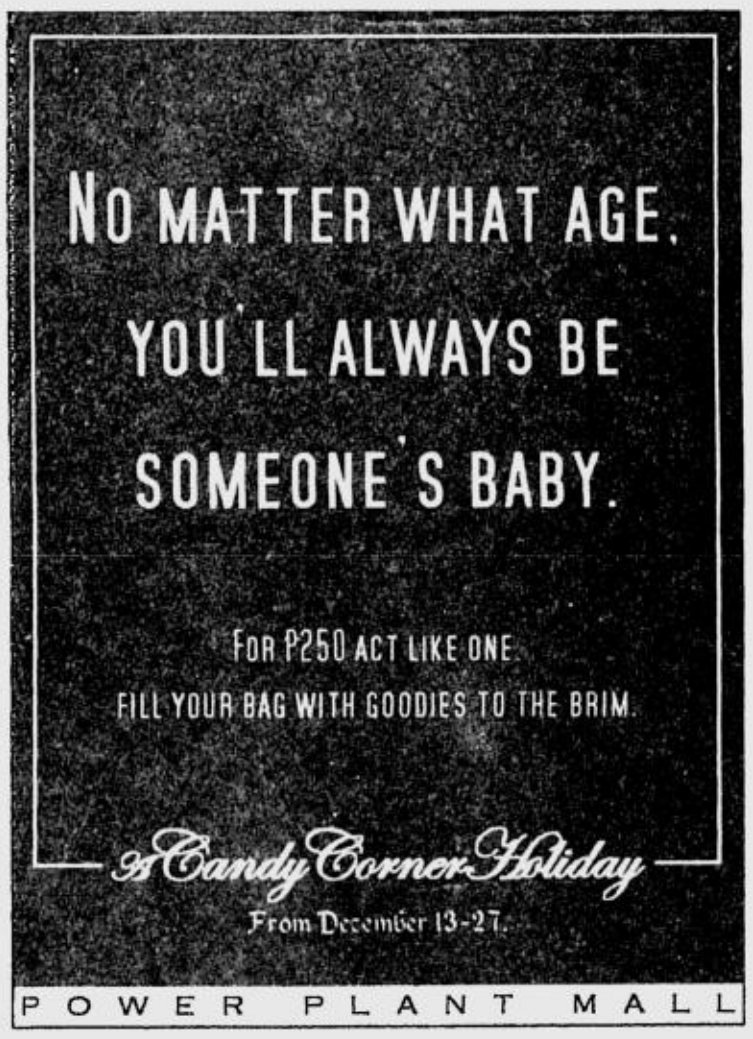
The sunny "Himala," penned by LaVerne Ducut, is already climbing the top 10 charts on Magic 89.9. "Ice Cube," written by Paolo, is another delightful ditty. But the ultimate grow-old-with-you tear-jerker is "Three Squeezes" by Jungee Marcelo.

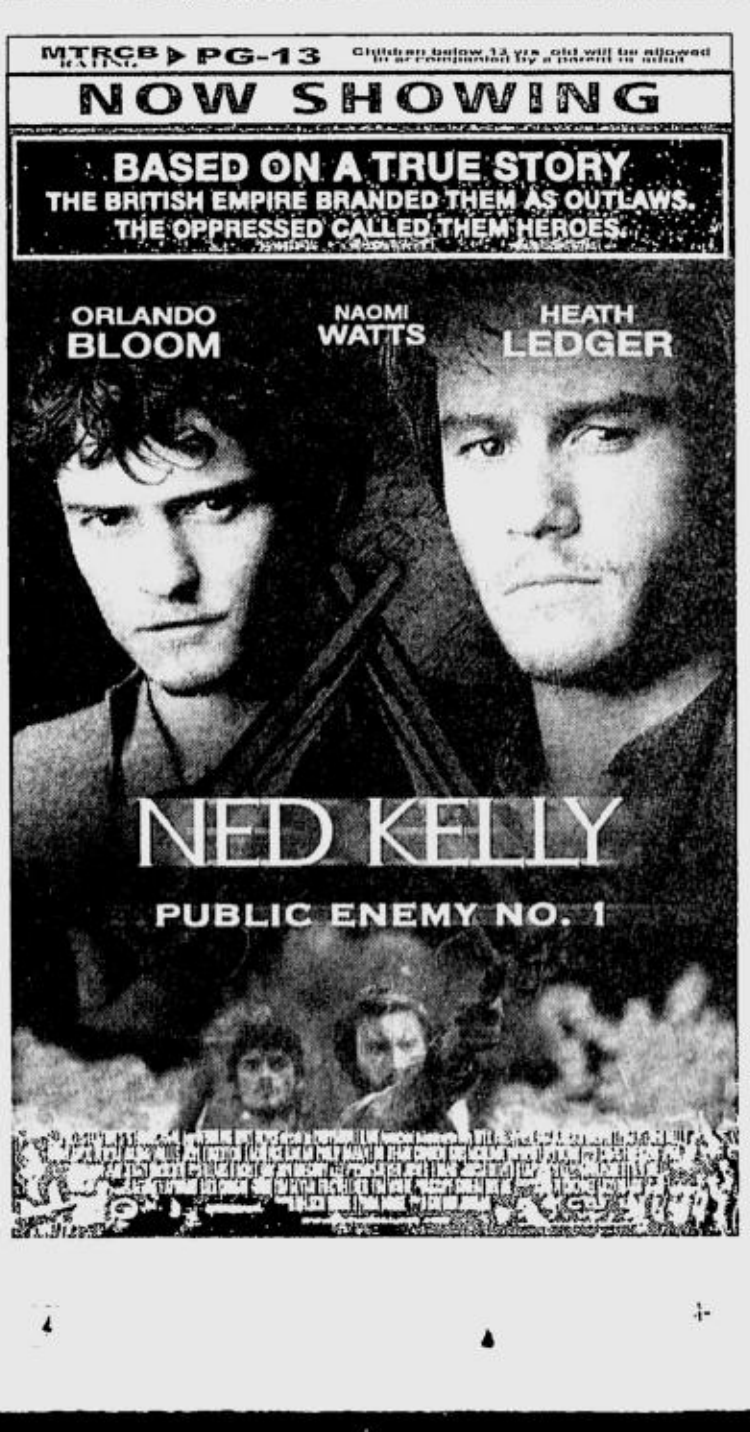
Besides his classic "Danille," a moving duet cover of "On&On" with Take One's Jen Panuncio, and a take on Michael Ruff's "Don't Ever Say Goodbye," Pido packs his album with soothing originals such as "Here's To You," "I Missed My Train" and the title cut, "Bittersweet."

"Bittersweet" is released by ACP and Warner Music Philippines.

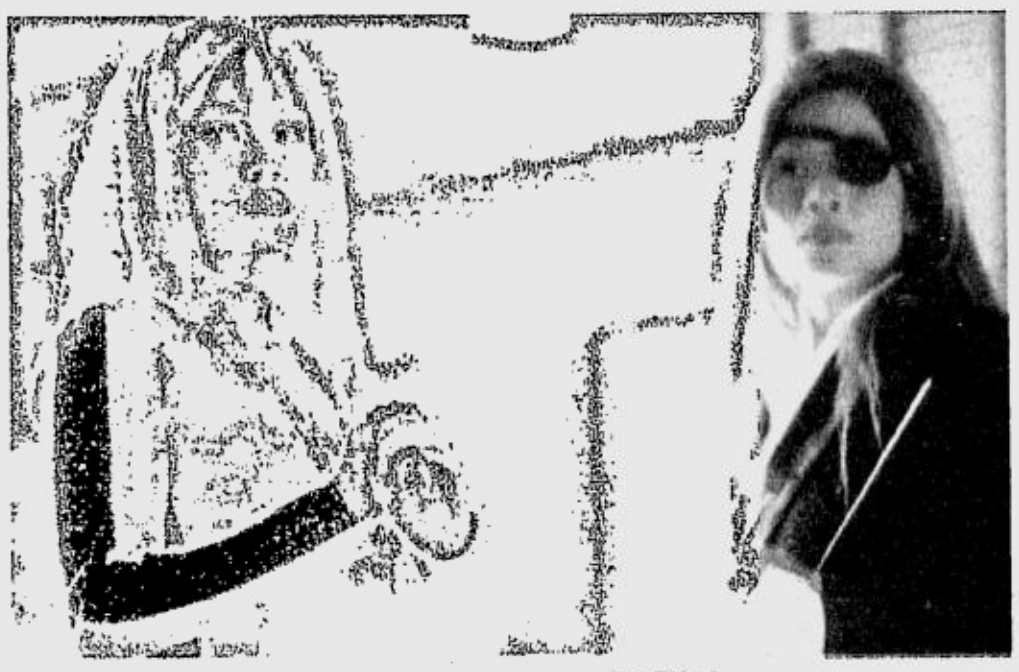








Tuesday, Pokwang face off



KILL 'BITIN.' Tuesday Vargas vs Pokwang in the new Payless TV ad

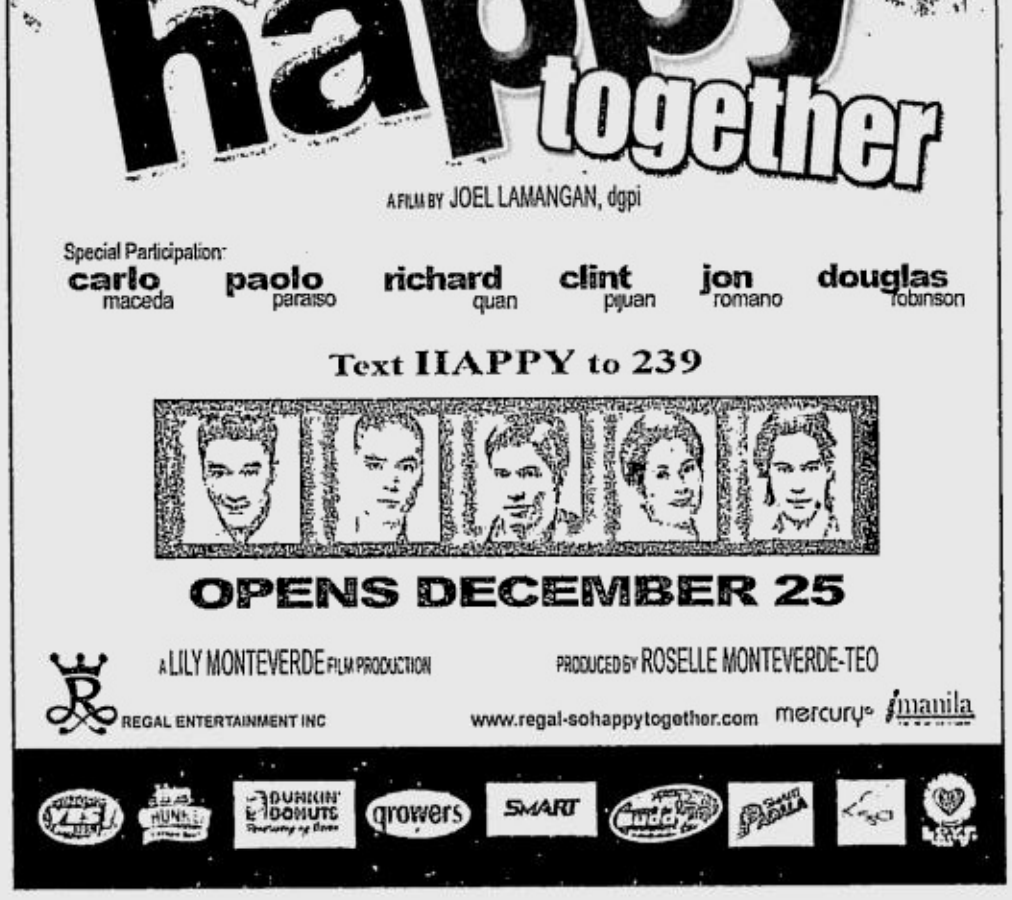
COMEDIENNES Tuesday Vargas and Pokwang face off in the latest Payless Pancit Canton Xtra Big TV commercial, battling it out with swords and kung fu moves for the last strand of *pancit canton*.

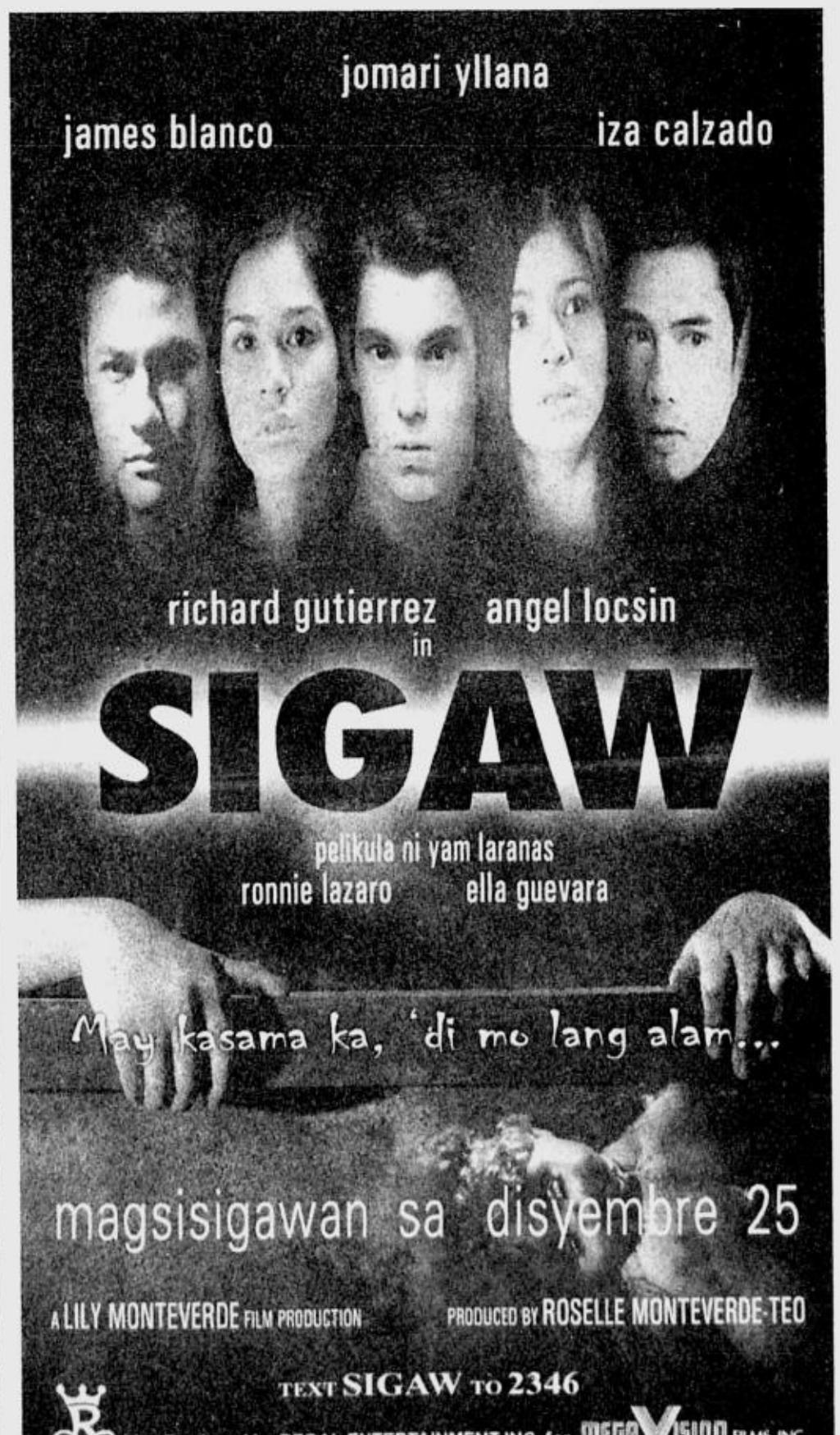
But the ad is really about how the extra large packet of noodles kills the "bitin" factor that came with the old regular size.

"I've been interested in martial arts since I was a little girl," Tuesday gushes.

"So training for the shoot alone was great. We learned how to use the sword and we even got to fly! It was like being a kid again."

Tuesday also reveals pancit canton is her "comfort food."





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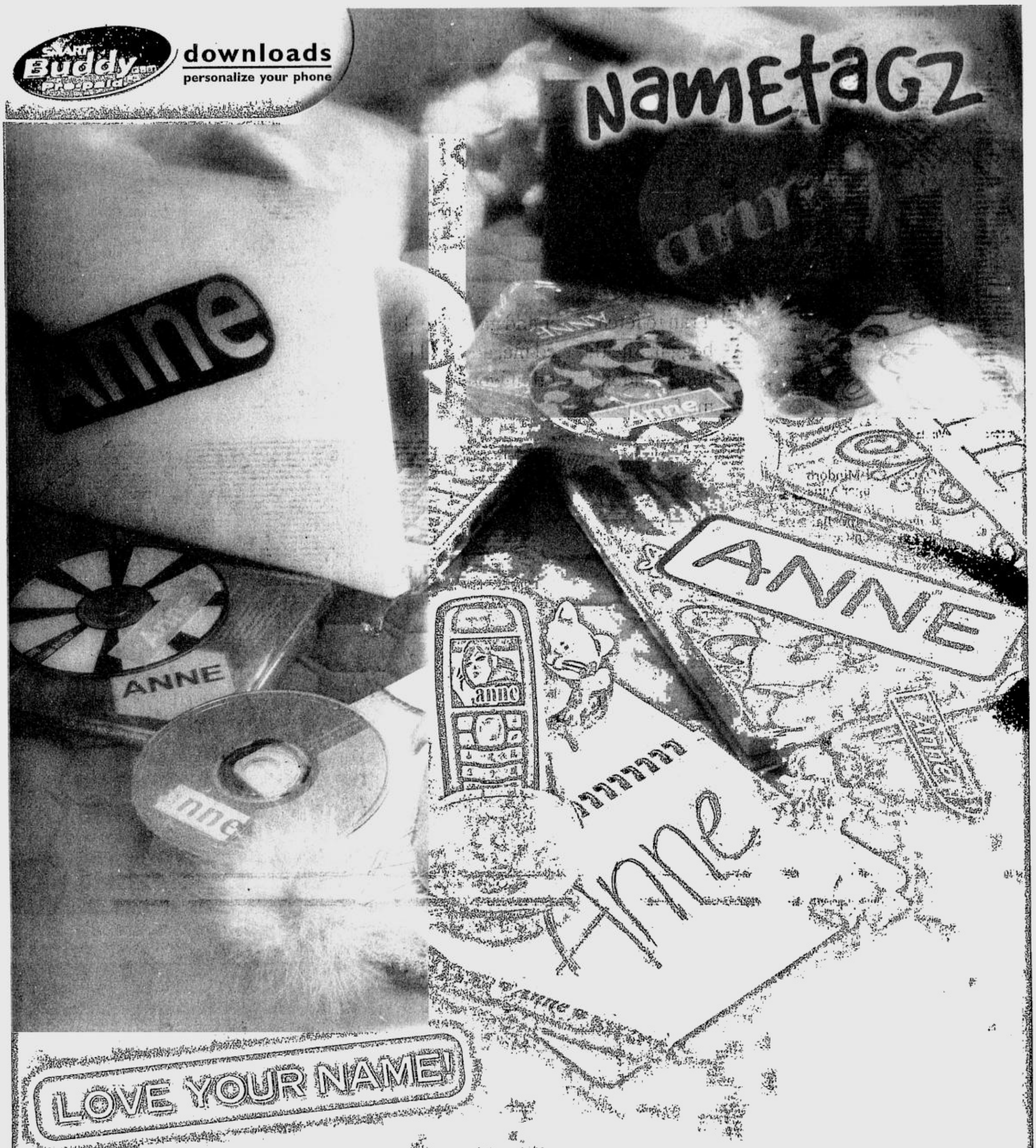

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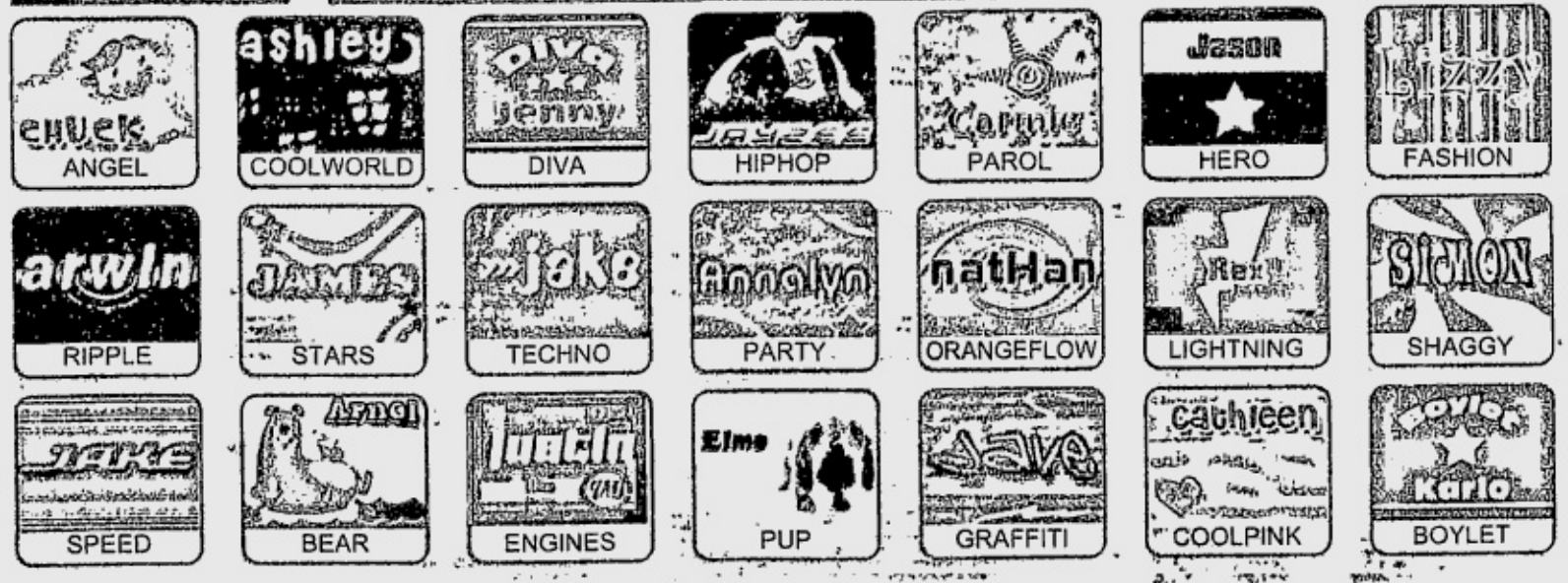

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Anna Dizon's latest gift

'I ran to fetch water and gave it to the beggar. She thanked me, and said I had a golden heart that would bring me fortune'

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon

SOCORRO, Oriental Mindoro —At 9 years old, singer Anna Dizon was selling onions, garlic and *calamansi* at the Balintawak market in Quezon City to help feed her family.

She was the second in a brood of five. When she was 15, her parents died, and in her despair she wanted to die, too. Seated on the steps of the market one day mulling her sad fate, an old beggar approached her and asked for a drink.

"I ran to fetch water and gave it to her," Anna recalled. "She thanked me, and said I had a golden heart that would bring me fortune. She said I would go places."

And then the beggar disappeared.

Sounds like fairy tale stuff. But the prediction has come true many times over.

On Oct. 8, the singer, now 42, formally opened her own resort and farm along the Nautical Highway Mabuhay here.

Beaming as she showed her guests around, Anna—outfitted in red and followed by an aide holding up a matching lacy red umbrella —said it was "another gift from God that had come to me without my asking."

Villa Anna Paradise Resort and Farm is, indeed, only the latest addition to her numerous endeavors. "First came my boutique in Balintawak, then the ATD [for Anna T. Dizon] piggery in Nueva Ecija, then the talent promotions center, then an international recruitment agency called ATD International Services," she said.

'A good feeling'

The resort—a little less than 10 hectares, with the fully developed portions already worth P40 million—is affiliated with Resort Condominium International. This was announced on Aug. 27, during the visit of RCI manager Chong Kok Hong.

Chong was very impressed, Anna said. Also affiliated with RCI is Dakak resort in Dapitan province.

Tess Alcancia, president of the Provincial Tourism Council, said she was sure Villa Anna would draw thousands of visitors and inspire tourism development in neighboring provinces as well.

Anna found the site two years ago with the help of a friend. "I immediately had a good feeling about it," she recounted. "Although it was mostly grassy, everything grew here—*lanzones*, *calamansi*, *sinturis*, *rambutan*. These are all considered 'money trees,' since their fruits are round."

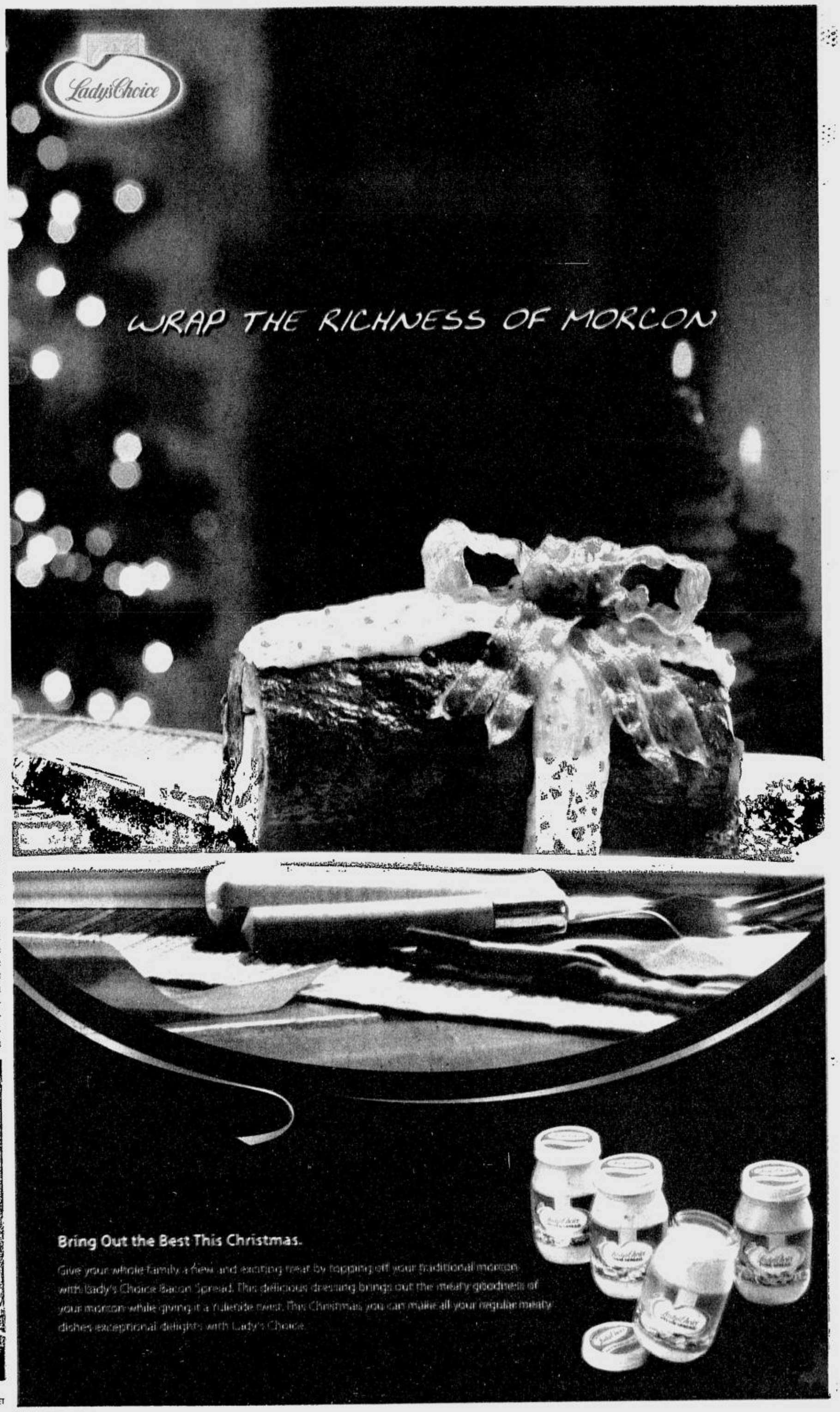
She paid for the property in two weeks.

What was once an ordinary orchard has been transformed into a world-class resort with modern amenities and an efficient staff. "A touch of Thailand," was the overall description offered by Anna, who loves to travel, particularly around Asia.

One of the main structures is a log house with a honeymoon suite, plus porches and terraces that overlook the spa. There is a tree house and a stone house. A cemented lane leads to the Mangyan Hall where receptions for up to 200 guests can be held. The Café Ala Anna serves Asian, Continental, Latin American and fusion cuisines. At the 42-foot hanging bridge, a playful monkey greets passersby.

ANNA/ A4-3

ANNA'S DREAM
PHOTOS BY COLORMASTER/DALACAN INTERNET



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1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON	1 2046 / 5 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 NATIONAL TREASURE	1 THE FORGOTTEN
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE / 6 BIRTH	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
3 ALEXANDER	3 BIRTH	3 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON / 4 ONE MISSED CALL / 7 ALEXANDER	3 2046	3 CELLULAR
4 2046	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1): 1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON; 2 BIRTH	4 BIRTH	4 TAXI
5 BIRTH			5 THE INCREDIBLES	5 FIRST DAUGHTER

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
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Entertainment Live!

Greenbelt 2	Greenbelt 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring FIRST CIRCLE December 11, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 U.P. Singing Ambassadors (Dec. 11), U.P. Concert Chorus (Dec. 12)

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4:00 PM
GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY

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5:30 PM

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Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 842 2782 & 772-1860

AYALA CENTER CEBU
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Schwarzenegger Keep Tax Returns Private

SAN FRANCISCO—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has broken with tradition and declined to release his tax returns, saying it could compromise a blind trust he set up to manage his wealth after winning office, an aide said on Thursday. The former Hollywood action star, who has declined to accept an annual salary of $175,000 as governor, set up the trust last year to avoid conflicts of interest.

MOVIE GUIDE

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3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE

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2 SAW
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2 OUT OF REACH
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 THE SIN

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4 (DTS) FIRST DAUGHTER

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5 BRIDGET JONES 2

1 OUT OF REACH
2 THE GHOST
3 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
4 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
5 NATIONAL TREASURE

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4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 DARKNESS
6 SALAT

1 THE GRUDGE
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3 FIRST DAUGHTER
4 NATIONAL TREASURE
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'Beverly Hillbillies' Singer Dies in LA

LOS ANGELES—Country and Western singer Jerry Scoggins, whose baritone rendition of the theme song of "The Beverly Hillbillies" became one of television's favorite tunes, has died in Los Angeles at age 93, his family said on Thursday.

The Texas-born Scoggins, who as a member of the Cass County Boys backed up singing cowboy Gene Autry in movies, radio and television, was working as a stockbroker and singing only on weekends when he was approached by the show's producers to sing "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" for the "Hillbillies" pilot in 1962.

Bianca Jagger Wins 'Alternative Nobel'

STOCKHOLM—Bianca Jagger of Nicaragua was awarded an honor known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize" on Thursday for her work to promote human rights and social justice. Jagger, who first became famous for her eight-year marriage to rock star Mick Jagger, shares the 2004 Right Livelihood Award with two others.

Dick Clark of 'American Bandstand' Suffers Stroke

LOS ANGELES—Longtime "American Bandstand" host and rock music pioneer Dick Clark has suffered a stroke and is being treated at a Los Angeles area hospital, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Outrage over 'Beckham Nativity'

LONDON—Church leaders condemned on Wednesday a Christmas nativity tableau depicting English soccer star David Beckham as Joseph and his pop singer wife Victoria as the Virgin Mary. British and US leaders Tony Blair and George W. Bush also starred as two of The Three Wise Men at the birth of Christ.

Reuters

'Winnie' victims on KMJS

THIS Sunday, "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" (KMJS) features the untold stories of the victims of the recent Typhoon Winnie, particularly in Quezon province.

KMJS takes a look at the building-turned-evacuation center in Barangay Tignoan in Real, Quezon, that collapsed due to landslides caused by Typhoon Winnie. More than a hundred people were estimated to have been buried alive.

Nine days after the building collapsed, rescuers heard voices and were able to save five people trapped in the building.

"Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" comes right after "Mel and Joey" on GMA-7.

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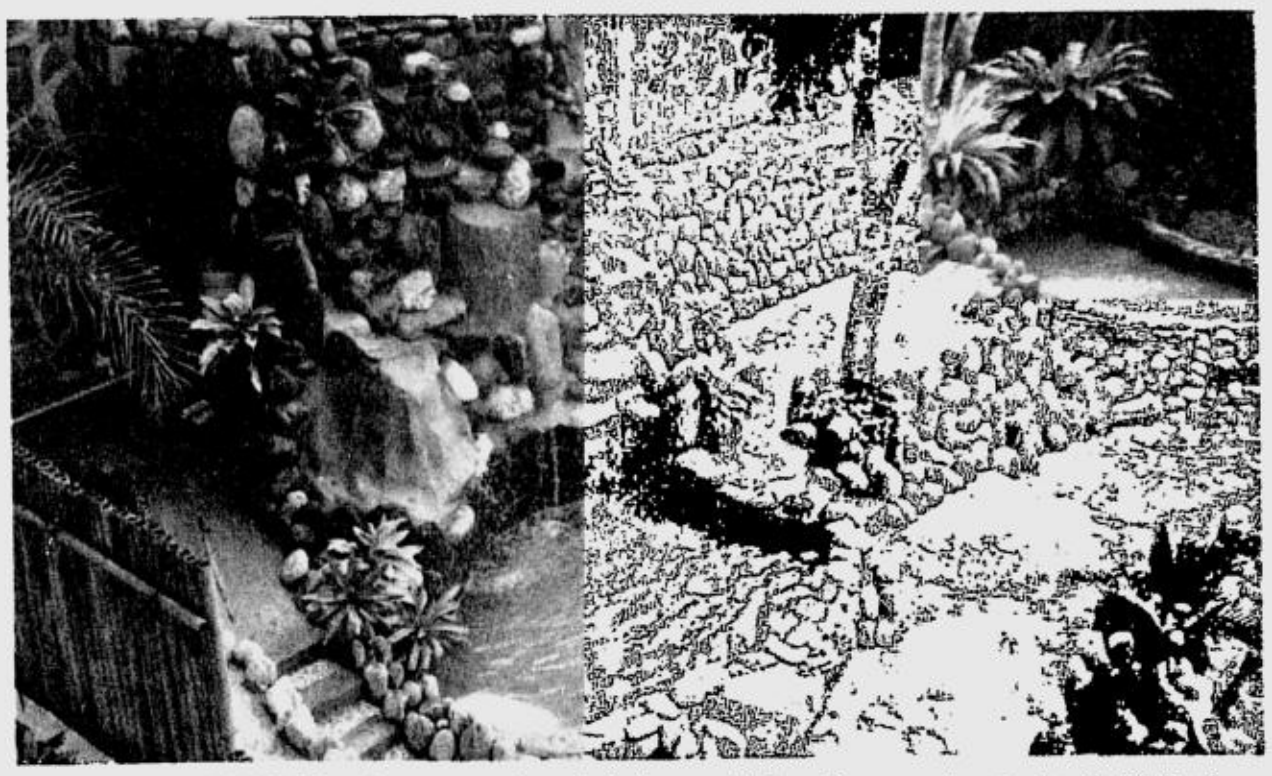
WORLD-CLASS. An ordinary orchard was transformed into a world-class resort with modern amenities and an efficient staff.



"TOUCH OF THAILAND." Anna loves to travel, particularly around Asia, and her resort was inspired by Thailand.

Anna Dizon's latest gift

From page A4-1

There's a swimming pool with a giant slide, a bar at the poolside, a mini zoo, a cable car and a gym—and facilities for horseback riding, fishing and camping.

Singer, manager

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Anna said that three months after meeting the beggar in the market, manager Bella Dimayuga of the Bellestar dancers offered her a job.

Anna took voice lessons and left as a singer for Japan, where she proceeded to make a name for herself. Proofs of her glittering career there are displayed in the resort's reception area.

But there is something that sets her apart from colleagues: in between trips, she pursued a management course at the University of the East in Manila.

She had a Japanese husband and a child, Herocei, after whom she named a gym that she subsequently set up in Manila.

In 1998, Anna became a recording artist. Her first album, "A Dream... A Reality" has turned gold. She is set to launch her second album at the end of this year.

She intends to be a hands-on manager for Villa Anna, as she has been from the resort's conceptualization to its ongoing construction. "I personally bought the tiles and other materials," Anna said. "I often didn't get any sleep, but in the end it was all worth it."

Architect Rudy Dimalibot, also from Mindoro, has been helping her. Only about 1.5 hectares of the property have been developed, but bookings have started trickling in.

Director Oscar Yema plans to make Villa Anna a setting for movies to be distributed in Japan. GMA's "Extra Challenge" plans to shoot episodes around the resort, too. And on Oct. 14, the Southern Tagalog Tourism Council's assembly was held here.

What about the Mindoreños?

"This place is very much within their reach," Anna said. "Some people think it is expensive. But with the P340 entrance fee [P450 from Friday to Sunday] already comes a meal and use of the swimming pool and other facilities, except the spa and cable car."

By next year, she said, there will be 20 rooms in all, Balinese style. Meanwhile, there is still a lot of "retouching" to do.

People skills

More important than the physical structures is Villa Anna's human resource. The owner-manager required her staff and crew to undergo intensive training in people skills and resort service.

"I told them we should always give our very best, our sunniest smiles, because people will come here to relax," Anna said. She made it clear that discipline, humility, hard work and patience were her minimum requirements.

They have a model to look up to, anyway. Anna's story is worth telling the world, and one for which she has been courted by the producers of "Maalaala Mo Kaya" and "Magpakailanman"—competing real-life drama series of the biggest rival stations.

It's not going to happen soon. As though to underscore her priorities, Anna said, "I am still focused on the resort."

Truth to tell, focus has guided most of her major moves. "I keep my feet on the ground. Money is important, but it's not everything. Character and word of honor are worth more."

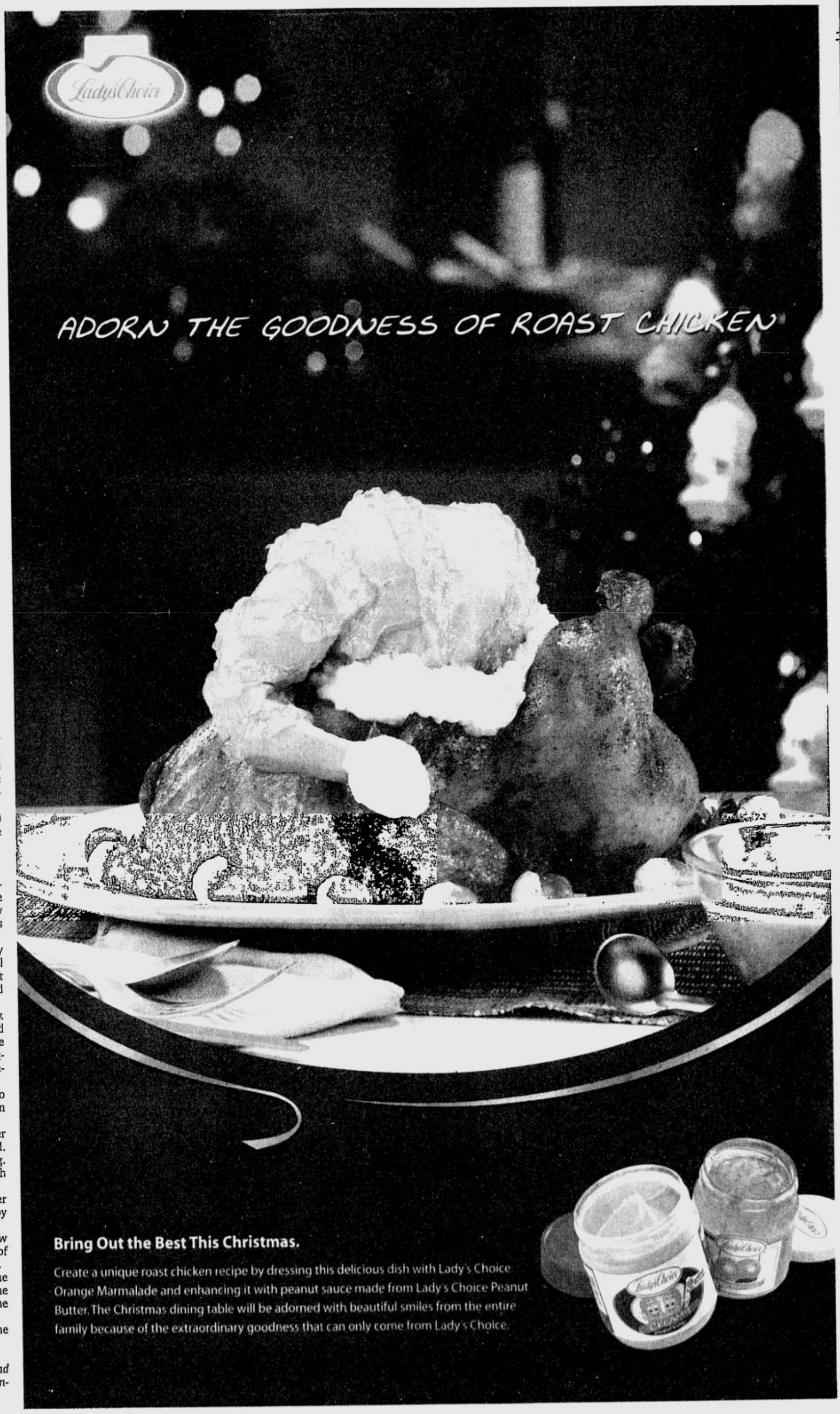
So clear she has always been about her goals, that she was "never swallowed up by show biz," another thing she is proud of.

Two years ago, Anna remarried. She is now the wife of actor August "Kevin" Flor, 29, of Sorsogon, whom she met in her Manila gym.

She is thankful for little lasting joys, the best thing about which, she said, is that she never needed to ask for them. "They just came to me."

Like the potent good wish of the beggar she once fetched a single glass of water for.

(To visit or book Villa Anna, please call 043-2843164 or 0920-3227663 in Mindoro; and 02-365-5439 in Manila. Or visit www.villaannaparadiseresort.com.)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

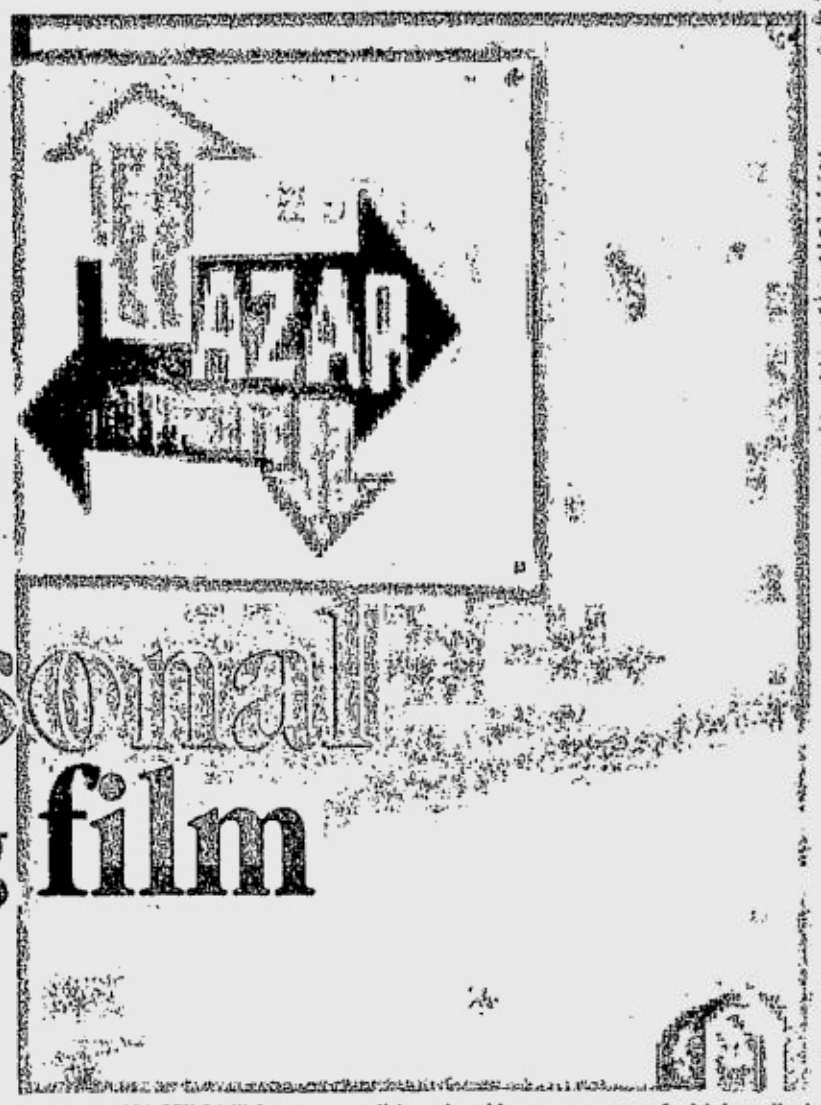
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT

GAEL GARCIA BERNAL stunning as a blond bombshell

Almodovar's most personal and challenging film

REVIEW



"BAD EDUCATION" features striking visual images, some of which walk the line between sincerity and camp.

NEW YORK—Superficially, "Bad Education" comes off as a collection of Pedro Almodovar's greatest hits—junkies and drag queens and Catholics—with an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink denseness about it.

This most personal film from the Spanish writer-director, who has shifted from the ridiculous ("Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown") to the sublime ("Talk to Her") throughout his storied career, is also his most challenging. It's so complicated in terms of structure, tone and subject matter, it demands repeated viewing.

Not that that would be a bad thing. As it morphs seamlessly from comedy to romance to drama to film noir, "Bad Education" features rich performances and sumptuous visuals that very much deserve a second look.

Playing three incarnations of the same role, Gael Garcia Bernal shows more depth and range than even his recent excellent work as young Che Guevara in "The Motorcycle Diaries" would suggest. The handsome young actor is also astonishingly passable in drag: He's stunning as a blonde bombshell, but even more convincing with long, feathered brown hair (eerily resembling Juliette Lewis).

Old lovers

When we first see Bernal, though, he's sporting a scruffy beard as he walks into the office of film director Enrique Goded (Fele Martinez). He says his name is Ignacio, and that he's an old friend of Enrique's from school. Though the two haven't seen each other in 16 years, Ignacio looks different from how Enrique remembered him. (In haunting flashbacks to their repressive, Franco-era Catholic school days, we learn that they fell in love with each other as boys, and that a jealous, abusive priest drove them apart.)

Ignacio says he's an actor now and insists on being called by his stage name, Angel. He offers a short story to Enrique, who's looking for inspiration for his latest film. It's called "The Visit," and it's about their childhood together. While Enrique isn't interested in rekindling their romance —"There's nothing less erotic than an actor looking for work," he tells his assistant—he is intrigued by Ignacio's writing.

As Enrique reads the short story, Almodovar jumps all over in terms of perspective and time, from Madrid in 1980 when the characters are adults to flashbacks to their youth. Characters who initially seemed villainous, like the school principal, reveal themselves to be surprisingly sympathetic. Sometimes they're even portrayed by different actors: Padre Manolo (Daniel Gimenez-Cacho) becomes Mr. Berenguer (Lluis Homar), and he teaches Enrique the truth about Ignacio/Angel, whose name is really Juan, and who dresses as a woman in fantasy sequences.

Striking visuals

As in all Almodovar films, "Bad Education" features striking visual images, some of which walk the line between sincerity and camp. Ignacio/Angel/Juan jumps into a shimmering swimming pool in slow motion, dressed only in his tighty-whiteys, over the head of Enrique, who's waiting nervously in the water below. The real Ignacio (Francisco Boira), a drugged-out trannie, collapses over a typewriter while writing and smashes his/her heavily made-up face into the keys.

"Bad Education," a Sony Pictures Classics release in Spanish with English subtitles, is not rated but contains foul language, nudity, sexual situations and drug use. *AP*

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ENTERTAINMENT

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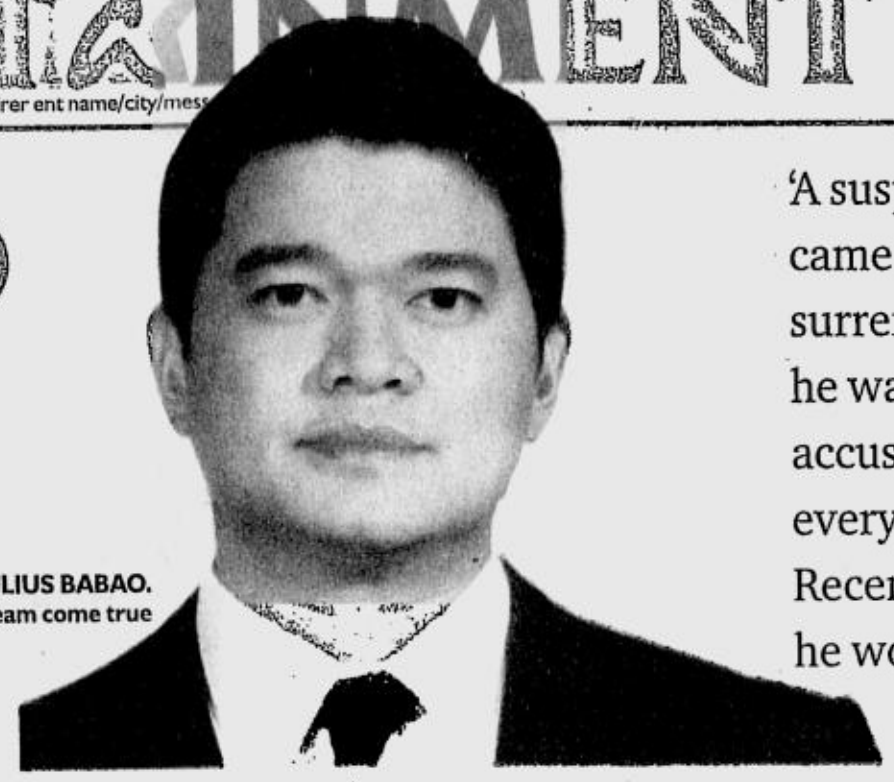
Julius Babao pushing people to change



JULIUS BABAO. Dream come true

'A suspected kidnapper came to me before surrendering. I knew he was being wrongly accused. I did everything to help him. Recently, I heard he would soon be freed'

By Gian Carlo Vizcarra
Contributor

THERE he was on a rooftop, in a lahar-ravaged Pampanga town, valiantly trying to hide his mounting fear while covering for a radio news program.

"That was in 1991," Julius Babao recalls. "I thought I was going to die."

Strangely enough, that was the moment he decided that what he was doing right then was his true calling.

Julius took up Film and Audio-visual Communications at the University of the Philippines, having dreamt of being one of the country's finest film directors. But fate, as everyone can see, had a different plan.

"During that coverage," Julius continues, "I was the only link between the government and the people." He felt he was saving lives. He had figured that, as a film director, he could effectively present reality in a medium that would push people to change.

And then he saw it clearly: "Both film directors and broadcasters have the power to initiate change within their own discipline, through their own means."

Serendipity

But how did an aspiring filmmaker land in broadcasting?

Serendipity is Julius' answer. "When I graduated—that year, 1991—I was jobless for several months. My mother was nagging me to find work. I applied with GMA 7 and was hired as production assistant. It was not easy. There were times I served as a driver. I almost gave up. Thankfully, my colleagues were supportive. I am happy I stayed."

Julius sought greener pastures when he accepted the radio reporter's job for GMA 7's AM station, dzBB. In 1993, he went into television as police reporter for ABS-CBN's flagship news program, "TV Patrol." Before the year was over, Julius was a standby anchor for the said news program, whose main anchors were Noli de Castro, Mel Tiangco and Frankie Evangelista.

"*Kabayan* Noli will always be my idol," Julius declares. "I will always be thankful because he was the first one to believe in my talent." Aside from pinch-hitting for absent "TV Patrol" anchors, Julius was asked to co-anchor "TV Patrol International" with Angelique Lazo.

Setting a trend

The country's first early morning program, "Alas Singko Y Medya" was launched in 1997, with Julius and Panjee Gonzales as hosts. Julius considers this year a milestone in his career. It wasn't easy at the beginning, he says.

"But I am proud of this show because it set a trend. For five years, it was number one in its time slot. I will forever be grateful to Jake Maderazo for allowing me to do hosting chores for ASYM."

In 2001, Julius and Christine Bersola, who replaced Panjee in ASYM, left the show to co-host the morning talk show, "Talk TV," with Ryan Agoncillo and Janette McBride.

"This was basically entertainment, so it was different for me, since I was used to news," he says. "It was exciting."

He continued to anchor the news segment of "Magandang Umaga Bayan," ASYM's successor in that time slot. When "Talk TV" wound up, Julius returned to MUB as one of the main hosts.

"That stint with 'Talk TV' made a better host/anchor out of me," Julius believes. "I used to be so stiff. After that, I became more relaxed."

Dream realized

One of Julius' dreams—to be one of the main anchors of "TV Patrol," with Korina Sanchez—was realized in 2003. That same year, DZMM gave Julius and Tin-tin, who was by then his wife, a weekend radio morning show, "Magandang Morning with Julius and Tin-tin."

For the show, he was named best radio talk show host during the last KBP Golden Dove Awards.

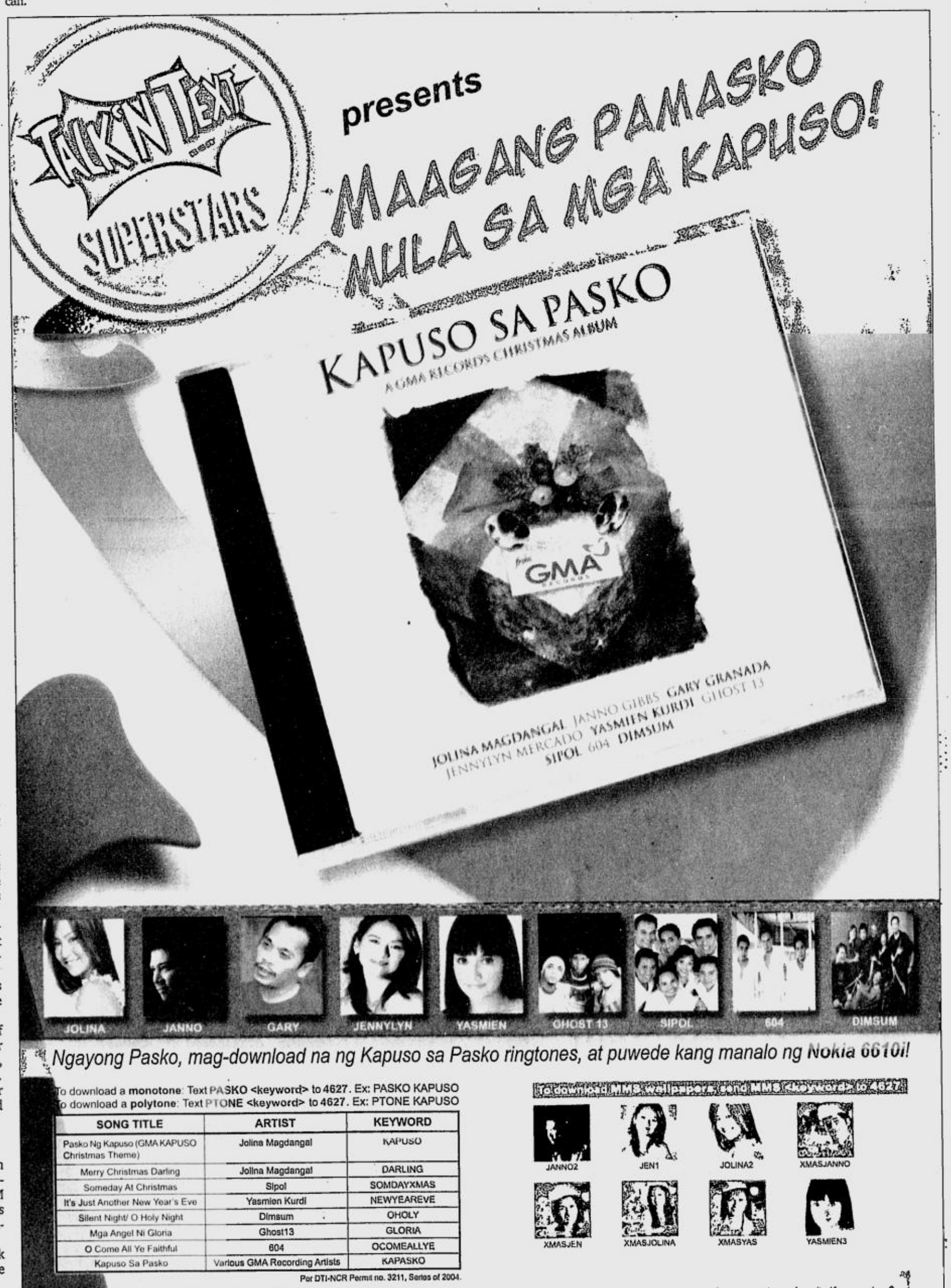
Most recently, Julius was asked to co-anchor the new "TV Patrol World," with Ted Failon and Karen Davila.

"The new program's thrust is to change newscasts from being crime-centered. We know it will be hard, but we are ready to take on the challenge."

Julius names four things that are guaranteed to give him a sense of fulfillment as a broadcaster. One, when his bosses go out of their way to congratulate him. Two, when the shows he is in rates well. Three, when award-giving bodies commend him. And four, the "most fulfilling, when I know I have influenced people to change."

He singles out one incident when he felt he truly responded to his profession's cause. Julius narrated this story: "A suspected kidnapper came to me before he surrendered. I knew he was being wrongly accused. As a broadcaster, I did everything to help him. Just recently, I heard he would soon be freed."

Needless to say, Julius sees his job as a noble profession: "I love my job. I do it in the best way I can."



Butch Jimenez still an Entertainment man

BUTCH Jimenez, despite his new career in the telecom industry, is still drawn to anything connected with the entertainment scene. Years of involvement in movies, broadcasting, theater, recording and even in the print media may explain this disposition.

More than this, Butch thinks the multimedia allows him to inspire people in his own way.

"I want to be known as someone who has made a difference," he says. Small wonder, then, are the prestigious productions he has been associated with, each one socially relevant and critically acclaimed: the movies "Jose Rizal," and "Muro Ami," and the musicals "Joseph the Dreamer," "Little Mermaid," and the CS Lewis classic, "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe."

The public can expect another interesting project from Butch soon. He plans to launch a unique album that would be historic and relevant to the youth.

"I've been wanting to produce an album that would bring back to the hearts and minds of Filipinos what should be the most important song to them or, should I say, what should be their anthem," says Butch who is currently talking to popular artists about the project.

TELECOM MAN. Jimenez describes himself as his PLDT team's "best, loudest, rowdiest cheerleader."

Best cheerleader

Currently first vice president of PLDT's Retail Business Group, he describes himself as his team's "best, loudest, rowdiest cheerleader."

"I like to keep things simple, fun and focused on the challenge at hand. I try to make my team realize that my rank or position is a badge to serve, not a badge to rule.

And in the end, when we've accomplished things, it's because of them," explains Butch.

Equally at home on a production set or in a huddle with his staff, as in a corporate boardroom, Butch is as dynamic as his undertakings. And because of his fast-paced lifestyle, Butch goes for clothes as fluid as he is.

He has found the versatility he demands and the look he prefers in his Memo wardrobe. Memo carries a diverse line of smartly designed casual wear for the upwardly mobile men and women. "My job takes me from meetings with the big bosses of the company to meetings with my staff within the same hour," says Butch. "It's important for the clothes I wear to be able to make the same easy transition. Memo clothes do that."

He also prefers basic yet trendy apparel that he can mix and match. He puts on a blazer over a Memo shirt and he's ready for the high-level board meeting. "After that, I take the blazer off, roll up my shirt sleeves and I'm ready for my troops on the ground," he beams.

His other passion

Despite his busy schedule at PLDT, Butch finds time to attend to his other passion—involvement in socio-civic organizations like the TOYM (The Outstanding Young Men) Foundation, of which he is president. TOYM aims to promote the ideals of excellence and leadership among the Filipinos. Butch himself was awarded a TOYM award in 1998 for his contribution to the multimedia industry.

While others in his league are devoted to achieving material gains, Butch's greatest challenge is making people believe in themselves.

"In the long term, I want to be a teacher," he says. "It's the most meaningful endeavor."

'Maverick and Ariel's First Christmas'

MAVERICK and Ariel lead ABC's biggest Christmas special yet, with a twist: A reality cum musical variety bonanza showcasing ABC's roster of stars plus a whole lot more in "Maverick and Ariel's First Christmas with the Stars: An ABC Special!"

Tonight at 9, ABC marks the difference when Pops Fernandez, Joey de Leon, Juliana Palermo, John Lapus, Mike Nacua, Camile Velasco, Loren Legarda, Amy Perez, VJ Jmie, JM Rodriguez and the rest of ABC stars are joined by Francine Prieto, Andrea del Rosario, Aiza Marquez, Gayle Valencia, Mark Bautista and Barbie's Cradle in an extra-special Christmas treat, Ariel and Maverick style.

The show's centerpiece, reality TV duo Ariel and Maverick, pour on their idiosyncrasies and offer a fresh approach to celebrating Christmas on air.

With a TV show, product endorsements, guestings, billboards and thousands of screaming fans, the duo is yet to relax and sit on their laurels. They dream of having a musical special with today's brightest stars.

ABC makes that dream come true, but not without the "reality" twist.

Continuing their misadventures, Ariel and Mav end with these holiday TV delights: A hyper beat rap performance of "Last Christmas" with Anime Ring Kaisho's Jmie; a high-energy hip-hop dance number with pretty Aiza Marquez and Gayle Valencia; a sultry "carwash" dance with Juliana Palermo together with equally stunning beauties Francine Prieto and Andrea del Rosario; and a sing-athon with Mark Bautista and "Sing Galing ni Pops" champions Leah Lagunilla and Marife Villacorta.

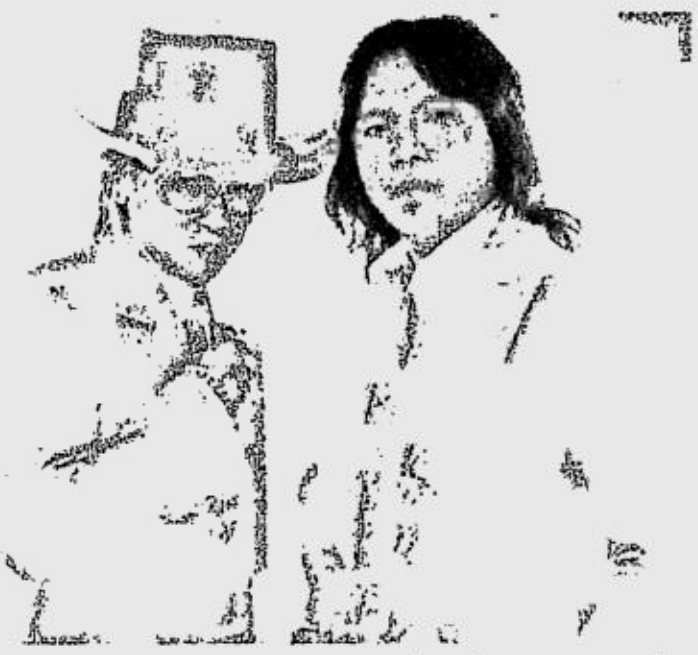
Add to these one of music industry's most-sought-after groups, Barbie's Cradle, in a unique rendition of "Happy Christmas." Mike Nacua of "Wow Mali" hops onto the bandwagon and joins John Lapus of "Sing Galing ni Pops" and Scout Raiders Kim and Trizsa as colorful and stunning drag queens.

Concert Queen Pops Fernandez brings out all her splendor in a spectacular version of "All I Want for Christmas." It will be a "White Christmas" for Joey de Leon, also of "Wow Mali."

And watch out for Ariel and Mav's "dates" with Camile Velasco, Loren Legarda, Amy Perez, JM Rodriguez and many more.

Also, find out how Maverick and Ariel work out their wish of bringing peace on earth—and between networks—through their riotous but ingenious ways.

Celebrate with all these ABC stars and have a really merry Christmas, tonight at 9.



MAVERICK AND ARIEL bring peace on earth and between networks.

"THE GRINCH" with Jim Carrey

Merry Christmas films from Star Movies

THE SPIRIT of Christmas is more felt as Star Movies brings heartwarming holiday films to your homes.

SHOW TIME

On Christmas Eve, Friday, at 9 p.m., Star Movies airs "Home Alone," starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern and directed by Chris Columbus.

The role brought young Macaulay Culkin to worldwide stardom and made him one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood. He made millions after this film, and he wasn't even a teenager yet.

One small child in a huge family, Kevin (Culkin) is accidentally left behind when his family takes off for a Christmas vacation in France. At first he enjoys his resplendent freedom and independence, but there are other holiday revelers in the neighborhood out to do some merry misdeeds.

Two bumbling burglars attempting to rob every house on the block decide to start with Kevin's. Little do they know that the best home security money can buy is an 8-year-old kid.

"Home Alone" is replayed on Dec. 25.

On Christmas Day, Saturday, at 9 p.m., it's "The Grinch," starring Jim Carrey, Anthony Hopkins and Molly Shannon, and directed by Ron Howard, based on the famous Christmas tale by Dr. Seuss.

Inside a snowflake exists the magical land of Whoville. In Whoville, live the Whos, an almost mutated sort of munchkin-like people. All the Whos love Christmas.

Just outside of their beloved Whoville, in a mountainside cave lives the Grinch (Jim Carrey). The Grinch is a nasty green creature that hates Christmas. He disguises himself as Santa Claus and plots to steal the Christmas goodies from every single home in Whoville.

"The Grinch" is shown again on Dec. 26 and 30.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, at 9 p.m., it's "Santa Clause 2: "The Mrs. Clause," starring Tim Allen, Spencer Breslin and Elizabeth Mitchell and directed by Michael Lembeck.

"Santa Clause 2" is an all-new comedy adventure overflowing with holiday cheer. Tim Allen reappears in the hilarious sequel to everybody's holiday favorite.

Scott Calvin (Allen) has been Santa Claus for the past eight years, and his loyal elves consider him the best one ever. But Scott has got problems. His son Charlie has landed on this year's "naughty" list, and if Scott doesn't get married by Christmas Eve—one very, very short month away—he'll stop being Santa forever.

Songbird sings 'Shine'

"SHINE," second place winner in the 1996 Metropop festival, is now the song for a skin-whitening product, as interpreted by Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez.

The song is an inspiring ballad written by Trina Belamide. It's about how a person's darkest hours can end in shining moments. It was originally interpreted for the competition on May 4, 1996 by Sweet Plantado, and then recorded by Ima Castro.

Through the new TV ad, SkinWhite Lotion, manufactured by Splash Corporation, "celebrates every person's shining moments, however great or small," according to Mars Aaron, Splash president and CEO.

Regine's rendition of the song was first heard Nov. 21 on GMA 7's "SOP Rules," when the ad was launched.

Aaron says: "Regine glows throughout the song because she is a shining example of the ideal woman. Not only is she smart, talented and beautiful. Her illustrious career is a testament to her resilience, as illustrated in all the challenges that have come her way."

Indeed, Regine personifies the perfect shining moment as she continues to reign in the local and international music scene. In the same way, Aaron adds, SkinWhite Lotion hopes to prove that local brands can compete —and shine—against imported brands.

REGINE

Kylie Minogue performs on Sony Ericsson

SONY Ericsson and EMI Music make music history as Kylie Minogue's latest single, "I Believe in You," debuts on the Sony Ericsson K700i camera phone, the first pop single and music video to make such an entrance on the music scene.

With its MP3 player with polyphonic sound and video playback function, the Sony Ericsson K700i provides a perfect venue to hear and see the pop diva at her best.

Both the song and music video of "I Believe in You" now come free with the purchase of the Sony Ericsson K700i at any authorized Sony Ericsson dealer. Enjoy the sounds and moves of this Aussie siren made even more dynamic through the K700i's vibrant 65K color TFT screen.

The K700i boasts up to 45 minutes of video recording and storage of up to 584 photos through an integrated camera with Photo Light and 4x digital zoom. It also has a built-in FM radio with up to 20 preset stations, online multiplayer game feature, e-mail and Internet, instant messaging and mobile chat.

"I Believe in You" is the first single off the Ultimate Kylie album, a 2-disc greatest hits collection that showcases all the hits from her entire career. From the bouncy "I Should be so Lucky," "Especially for You" and "The Locomotion" from her mid-'80s debut to the more recent and infectious "Can't Get You Out of My Head," the cool funk of "Slow" and the sultry cut "Chocolate," the album lives up to being the ultimate collection of Kylie Minogue hits.

Kylie has become as much fun to watch in music videos and concerts as to hear, as she takes both music and fashion to new heights. "Ultimate Kylie" proves that Kylie is one hot musical artist set to light up the pop charts.

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WITH THE WINNING COMBINATION OF:

week 4
DEC 4, 04 - 15 02 19 11 16 06 20
DEC 6, 04 - 23 03 25 02 12 27 17
DEC 7, 04 - 18 14 03 16 13 05 06
DEC 8, 04 - 09 05 23 12 28 17 13
DEC 9, 04 - 29 26 02 07 03 15 08
DEC 10, 04 - 24 04 14 26 10 19 29

PREVIOUS WINNING COMBINATIONS:

week 1
NOV 15, 04 - 05 23 08 16 15 07 30
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NOV 17, 04 - 01 28 27 24 09 30 04
NOV 18, 04 - 21 09 08 14 27 23 24
NOV 19, 04 - 05 25 23 12 18 06 14
NOV 20, 04 - 29 23 05 22 02 06 20

week 2
NOV 22, 04 - 15 05 17 10 26 04 24
NOV 23, 04 - 06 30 25 10 26 04 01
NOV 24, 04 - 19 23 04 15 28 29 25
NOV 25, 04 - 20 10 03 15 14 23 01
NOV 26, 04 - 10 09 17 01 30 04 28
NOV 27, 04 - 11 10 15 18 25 17 29

week 3
NOV 29, 04 - 12 16 30 09 19 01 20
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ENTERTAINMENT

No solid favorites yet in Oscar race

LOS ANGELES—With no J.R.R. Tolkien fantasy to lord over Hollywood's prom night, an eccentric mix of real-life characters may step in to fill the void at the Academy Awards.

There's the billionaire, Howard Hughes, in "The Aviator." The blind singer, Ray Charles, in "Ray." The sex researcher, Alfred Kinsey, in "Kinsey." The future revolutionary, Che Guevara, in "The Motorcycle Diaries." The paralyzed euthanasia advocate, Ramon Sampedro, in "The Sea Inside." The Good Samaritan innkeeper, Paul Rusesabagina, in "Hotel Rwanda." The guy who wrote "Peter Pan," J.M. Barrie, in "Finding Neverland."

No solid favorites have emerged in main Oscar categories, leaving a wide-open race among those biographical movies and a broad mix of fictional films.

Last February, the Tolkien epic "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" swept all 11 categories in which it was nominated, including best picture and director.

And while some awards watchers have groused that 2004 produced a weak field of contenders, there are plenty of intriguing prospects that should make Oscar night (Feb. 27, 2005) far less predictable than 2003's show.

A rundown of potential contenders for Oscar nominations, which come out Jan. 25, 2005:

Best picture

Martin Scorsese's Howard Hughes biopic "The Aviator" could become a default front-runner if no other film catches fire as awards season progresses.

The nearly three-hour movie drags at times, but its vibrant depiction of '20s, '30s and '40s America—and monumental recreations of Hughes' film production "Hell's Angels" and the flight of the mammoth Spruce Goose airplane—make for a visual and dramatic spectacle that should appeal to every branch of the 5,800-member academy.

Also in its favor, "The Aviator" deals with two subjects Hollywood loves—itself, and an erratic weirdo. Leonardo DiCaprio is excellent as the obsessive-compulsive Hughes, and the Scorsese brand name signals that this could be the epic to watch as the Oscars approach.

Of the other biographical films, Marc Forster's "Finding Neverland" has the strongest best-picture prospects, combining clever whimsy and brooding drama for a fanciful portrait of Barrie's "Peter Pan" inspirations.

Taylor Hackford's "Ray," Bill Condon's "Kinsey," Terry George's "Hotel Rwanda," Alejandro Amenabar's "The Sea Inside" and Walter Salles' "The Motorcycle Diaries" have better chances at acting and other nominations than best-picture slots.

The latter two are foreign-language films, which rarely make the best-picture cut. Jean-Pierre Jeunet's World War I era romance, "A Very Long Engagement," and Zhang Yimou's martial arts epic, "House of Flying Daggers," have the same hurdle, but those movies have caught stronger best-picture buzz than other foreign-language pictures.

Sumptuously shot, Joel Schumacher's "The Phantom of the Opera" could join "Moulin Rouge!" and "Chicago" as the third musical of the past four years to earn a best-picture nomination after a two-decade drought for the genre.

The year's most divisive hits—Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11"—probably are too polarizing to grab enough votes for best-picture nominations.

"Shrek 2" and "The Incredibles" will duke it out for the animated Oscar, but as two of the year's best-reviewed films, they also have longshot best-picture potential.

Other possibilities: Clint Eastwood's boxing saga, "Million Dollar Baby"; Mike Nichols' caustic sex yarn, "Closer"; James L. Brooks' culture-clash tale, "Spanglish"; Alexander Payne's offbeat road-trip flick, "Sideways," and Mike Leigh's abortion drama, "Vera Drake."

Best actor

Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles in "Ray" seems like the one certain nominee among a crowded field. Foxx authentically captures Charles' mannerisms and intonations, and he seamlessly juggles the singer's playful, gentle demeanor with the dark, hurtful side that led him to prolonged drug addiction and heartless treatment of women.

Besides, an Oscar vote for Foxx is in essence an Oscar vote for the beloved Charles, who died last June.

Other possibilities: Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes in "The Aviator"; Johnny Depp as J.M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland"; Javier Bardem in "The Sea Inside," playing Ramon Sampedro, who campaigned for 30 years for his right to die after a paralyzing accident; Don Cheadle in "Hotel Rwanda," playing hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, who sheltered refugees from the 1990s genocide in the African nation; Clint Eastwood as a crusty gym owner who reluctantly agrees to train a female boxer in "Million Dollar Baby"; Liam Neeson as sex researcher Alfred Kinsey in "Kinsey"; Paul Giamatti as a loser who gets a new chance at love in "Sideways"; and Jude Law as a duplicitous lover in "Closer."

Also, Kevin Bacon as a child molester trying to go straight after prison in "The Woodsman"; Bill Murray as leader of a ragtag oceanography team in "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou";

Jim Carrey as a man struggling to retain medically erased memories of his ex-girlfriend in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind";

Tom Cruise as a hit man on a killing spree in "Collateral"; Gerard Butler as the disfigured musical genius in "The Phantom of the Opera"; John Travolta as a hard-luck case who becomes a paternal figure to a teenage woman in "A Love Song for Bobby Long"; and Gael Garcia Bernal as the young Ernesto "Che" Guevara in "The Motorcycle Diaries."

Best actress

Hilary Swank won five years ago for "Boys Don't Cry," dashing the Oscar hopes of Annette Bening, who had been the front-runner for "American Beauty."

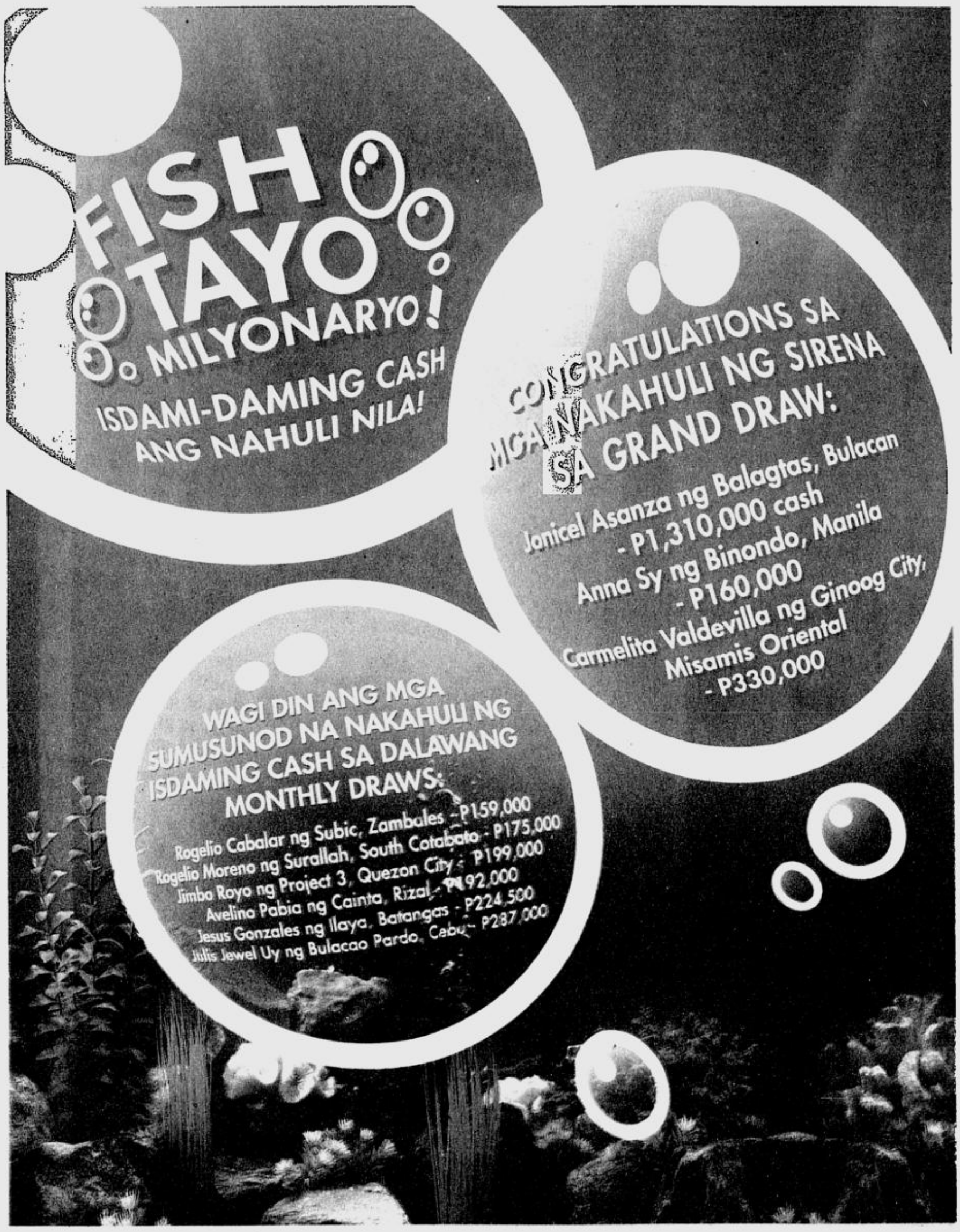
Both are back in the Oscar race, and Swank could thwart Bening's chances again with "Million Dollar Baby." With endearing humor and pathos, Swank plays a zesty boxer whose life takes a tragic turn, her delivery rivaling the raw power of her performance in "Boys Don't Cry."

Bening delivers a gleefully wicked role in "Being Julia," playing a 1930s stage diva who takes exultant revenge on the men in her life and a young rival.

"Spanglish" presents two excellent performances from Tea Leoni as a callously self-absorbed wife and mother and Paz Vega as a Mexican housekeeper fiercely trying to shield her daughter from Americanizing influences.

Other possibilities: Imelda Staunton as a saintly woman in 1950s Britain whose good deeds include performing illegal abortions; Audrey Tautou in "A Very Long Engagement," playing a woman desperately searching for her fiance, who supposedly died in the trenches of World War I;

Julia Roberts as a photographer flitting back and forth between two men in her life in "Closer"; and Kate Winslet as a woman who's had memories of her ex-boyfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."



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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Heart of one of RP's largest accounting firms beats on

PHOTOS FROM VELAYO'S MEMOIRS "JUST THE WAY IT HAPPENED"

VELAYO may have retired from SGV in 1970, but his influence is still felt.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IF WASHINGTON SyCip is the brains behind the success of consulting firm SGV & Co., then his childhood friend and partner, Alfredo M. Velayo, is the heart.

With his good looks, charm, easy laugh and gift of gab, Velayo provided the vital human touch that encouraged the growing staff of SGV & Co. to keep right on working, making the firm what it is today, the biggest in the country with offices across Asia.

This he did while working as hard as everybody did, including the founder Wash SyCip. He clocked in long hours and would sacrifice his weekends to get the clients' job done and help grow the business from its humble beginnings in 1947.

FRED at three

Burning the candle at both ends is second nature to Velayo whose destiny is so inextricably intertwined with SyCip's.

They met for the first time in 1926 during their first day of first grade at the Burgos Elementary School in Sta. Mesa.

He and the rest of his classmates started crying when the bell rang and their siblings and parents were ushered out of the classroom.

Everybody, that is, except for one boy whose eyes were dry because his mother, a good friend of the principal's, was allowed to sit on a chair near the teacher's desk.

That was the first time he saw SyCip and though Velayo thought they would not become close friends due to their different natures, they celebrated their 83rd birthdays this year, and the 78th year of their friendship.

FRED and brothers Ding and Carlos with their mother, Vicenta

"I guess we became friends because we're always the two best in class. We were promoted together twice, except for the third time when he was promoted, and I was not. I just thought that he had better grades. But I learned much later that there were actually three of us to be promoted, but because there were just two desks, and since my last name started with V, I wasn't included. Wash got in," he tells the INQUIRER.

First Job

First job

Since then SyCip was always a half step ahead of Velayo who got his first taste of holding a job when he was in Mapa High School, where SyCip also went.

He was tasked to put the shirts made by his mother, labeled Velayo Shirts, in boxes and bring them via *karetela* to the seaport terminal for loading on a ship bound for Bacolod, where his brother had a tailor shop.

POSING as an Igorot warrior, 1941

He was the ninth of 10 children.

"I don't remember being paid for it but it was a way of helping my mother," Velayo says.

His first real job came in June 1939, on his third year of Commerce studies at the University of Sto. Tomas, when the dean asked him to teach basic accounting.

"My allowance was P40 a month to teach two subjects at night. So I was studying during the day and teaching at night. It was funny because I had classmates during the day who were also my students at night," Velayo says.

He enjoyed teaching so much that he was able to do it, while maintaining almost perfect scores in all of his accounting subjects.

He and SyCip eventually graduated summa cum laude.

He took the exams for Certified Public Accountants soon after college and landed in 4th place (the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno was the topnotcher), but he was barred from practicing the profession as he was below the legal age of 21.

Velayo then joined Francisco Dalupan who put up the forerunner of the University of the East. He was one of the first members of the faculty, along with, of course, SyCip.

When he passed the CPA exams, he joined the local arm of an American accounting firm and earned about P80 a month.

It was a big sum at that time when minimum fare was less than 10 centavos and he used to have an allowance of just P12 a month as a student.

He got even more when he moved to China Bank, upon the invitation of SyCip's father, Don Albino, where he got a monthly salary of P125.

Japanese occupation

During the Japanese occupation, Velayo survived by working as a chief accountant of the Filipino Bus Operators Association.

Though money was available, basic staples were so expensive that Velayo still remembers how fruits, vegetables and meat were in such short supply that he saw people literally dying of hunger on the streets of Manila.

He had to persevere, however, as he also had to take care of his young wife, Harriett, whom he first saw across a crowded stadium during a basketball game during his freshman year.

When it became obvious that the Japanese would lose the war, American citizens were allowed to go back to the United States along with the soldiers. Among those who took the long boat ride to the mainland were Harriett, her American mother and her siblings.

As Harriett's husband, Velayo was allowed to go with them on the boat, thus, putting the Filipino accountant on the road to an almost one-year stint with the US military.

He was in California, Virginia and Alaska. It was quite a distance from the Philippines at that time when communication was limited to the exchange of letters and the occasional phone call.

But despite being across the miles, Velayo and SyCip kept their friendship going and updated each other on what was happening in their lives about every week.

The most memorable letter came on Dec. 16,1946 when SyCip encouraged Velayo to come back to the Philippines and take advantage of the opportunities open to accountants.

Velayo took him up on the offer and joined Sycip in 1947 as a partner in W. SyCip and Co. By 1948, it was renamed SyCip, Velayo, Jose and Co. and in 1953, it was again renamed SGV & Co.,

HEART/ B2

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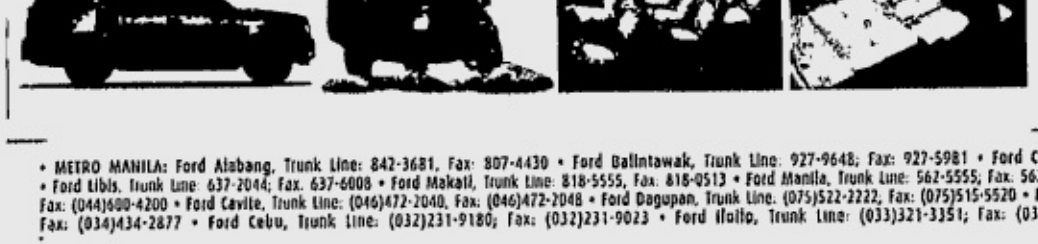

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FRED (second row, extreme right) during his grade school days at P. Burgos Elementary School.

Heart of one of RP's largest accounting firms beats on

From page B1

which still stands 51 years later.

SGV quickly made its name known in the industry largely due to the legendary team-up between SyCip and Velayo.

SyCip was in charge of getting clients, while Velayo took care of staff training, client servicing, while doing his own work as audit in charge of some of the biggest clients.

It was a work that demanded most of his time, including weekends, that he hardly saw his wife and four children.

In 1965 he made a big error in one of his auditing jobs that he thought it was time to leave. He came to see SyCip the next day with every intention of resigning from the partnership.

"I went to see him early that morning and told him of my intention. He said, okay, choose the date. But he told me to choose that date carefully because he would walk out the door with me.

My friend outsmarted me yet again, because he knew that I would not be able to do that because the partnership will not survive with the two of us gone. So I stayed," Velayo says.

FRED belting "Dahil sa 'yo" with former first lady Imelda Marcos

Closing a chapter

But by 1970, he was finally allowed to retire from the partnership, closing a chapter in the story of SGV.

Velayo moved on to join the private sector as director and CEO of different companies, including his own, which invested in different businesses including the jewelry business of his brother, Ding.

That is not to say, however, that Velayo and SyCip went their separate ways. They kept their friendship and he even became one of SGV's clients.

Even in sickness they were together. In 1997, they were both diagnosed with prostate cancer by the same doctor and at the same

SYCIP and Velayo with the late President Diosdado Macapagal

hospital in the United States.

When they came back to the Philippines for radiotherapy, Velayo was patient number one, and SyCip, number two. They found themselves partners again, in sickness and in health.

"How can I separate myself from this guy?" Velayo asks in jest.

Velayo and SyCip are over that scary episode and both continue to be active in business and in outreach projects.

Velayo spends more of his time these days at the helm of William J. Shaw Foundation, which helped him and SyCip give back some help to the public schools they attended as young boys.

He also relishes the time he spends with his children and grandchildren.

He says it was not only until after he retired from SGV and positions in over 150 companies that he was able to devote more time for his wife and children.

Velayo enjoys every minute spent with his family, especially with his wife. The only woman, he says, that he ever loved and still loves after more than 60 years together.

But it is with SyCip that Velayo has been with the longest. And as they enter their mid-80s, many say they would probably leave the world together.

Velayo begs to disagree.

In typical Velayo humor, he says he would likely pass away ahead of SyCip, who is older than him by 57 days.

"That is because only the good die young," he says with a laugh.

FRED with wife Harriett during their wedding in 1942

THE HAPPY couple after 62 years of wedded bliss

THE BOHOL PAVILION

A seaside resort opens to business, pleasure

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

PANGLAO, Bohol—The pioneering beach club in Bohol has found a way to mix business with pleasure. It goes by the name of Bohol Pavilion.

The Bohol Beach Club (BBC) marked a milestone on its 20th year when it opened the Bohol Pavilion last Dec. 5.

The BBC is part of the chain that includes the Cebu-based Tambuli Resort and Cebu Beach Club.

The launching and blessing of the BBC's newest haven coincided with the 2004 Tambuli Resorts top producers awards.

Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado and BBC founder Anos Fonacier were given special recognition awards during the occasion.

The BBC's top producers for 2004 in the travel category were Chuan Lien, Blue Horizons Travel & Tours Inc. and Cebu Holidays Tours & Travel Inc.

Innove Communications Inc. and SC Johnson clinched the corporate category awards, while the Jordana family is the lone awardee in the special events category.

Elegant addition

Chatto, Bohol's first district representative, described the new pavilion as "the best that can happen to Bohol."

The hotel and resort industry has contributed significantly to Bohol's economy.

The elegant new addition to all the comforts that the BBC has to offer comes in the form of a 296.36-square-meter structure which, according to the BBC, opens an array of fine business and leisure possibilities in a prime beach resort.

The pavilion promises to be the venue where "corporate and family gatherings mix, match and magnify."

The structure can accommodate a theater set-up that can seat up to 300 persons. The classroom set-up can take in up to 180 persons. The pavilion can also be turned into a banquet hall that can line up as many as 150 people.

Working with pleasure

The BBC's Bohol Pavilion has the amenities that can turn a leisurely beach gathering into an instant workplace for people who mean business.

Available for use are LCD and slide projectors, white boards, flip charts, standard microphones, lapel microphones, a laser pointer, state-of-the-art audio equipment and a wide screen.

The business center provides secretarial services, photocopying, facsimile machine and Internet access.

Bohol's premiere beach resort offers 36 standard rooms, 20 superior poolside rooms, 24 superior beachfront rooms, one deluxe studio room, six executive suite rooms, a premiere suite and a family suite with two bedrooms.

The BBC offers guests a wide variety of amenities to choose from including a pool bar, beach bar, restaurant, swimming pool, outdoor jacuzzi and scuba diving. There is also a glass-bottom boat where one can view the undersea world from topside.

In a place where the shoreline is pristine, the BBC owns the bragging rights to the longest white beach on the island.

On any given day, one can bask and frolic on this kilometer-long stretch of powdery white beach before taking a plunge in the deep blue ocean.

Just offshore, guests can dive into the sparkling waters and marvel at the majestic coral and marine colony known as the Balicasag dive spot—one of the country's top diving destinations.

A long way

The BBC has come a long way from the time it silently opened its doors on May 19, 1984 in Bolod, Panglao town.

Founded by Fonacier after he opened his Cebu resorts, the BBC soon developed a clientele of its own among foreign guests who patronized the Balicasag dive spot, a mere 10 minutes from the resort.

The resort soon earned a reputation as a hideaway with only the "basics"—no air-conditioned rooms, 40 rooms with only ceiling fans, decent bathrooms and beds.

After the Sept. 11, 2000 World Trade Center bombing and the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking in Dos Palmas however, the country's tourism industry faced its worst crisis and the BBC was not spared.

'Blessing in disguise'

Joey Valenzuela, BBC officer-in-charge, however saw this crisis as a "blessing in disguise." Instead of throwing in the towel, the resort simply reinvented itself.

"BBC decided to shift its marketing direction to domestic clients, such as pharmaceutical and insurance firms that offer pleasure trips as incentives to its employees," Valenzuela said.

As a result, BBC not only was able to weather the storm but even managed to reinvent itself as a venue where business and pleasure mix.

Indeed, business people never had it so good, getting down to serious business during seminars and convention hours before casually shifting to leisure mode once they are through.

With the Bohol Pavilion now operational, the BBC has more reasons to be optimistic.

The man credited not only for putting up BBC was not around during the launching on Sunday.

But Chatto took the occasion to pay tribute to Fonacier as the man "who really brought the tourism industry of the province to its feet."

With Fonacier enjoying his sunset years, son Soliman is now tasked with steering the BBC and the Tambuli Resort chain as president and chief executive officer.

One can only assume that BBC is in good hands.

Citibank named most preferred bank

CITIBANK was voted the Most Preferred Bank—the best international brand in the bank/insurance/investment service category—in the first annual Asia's Top 1,000 Brand Listing. This is based on a proprietary survey conducted by global market research agency Synovate for the organizers of Superbrands Asia, Asian Media, the largest poll on Asian consumers' most preferred brands in July 2004.

Synovate surveyed 7,500 individual consumers aged 15-64, across eight Asian markets, including 1,000 in mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, and 500 consumers in the Philippines.

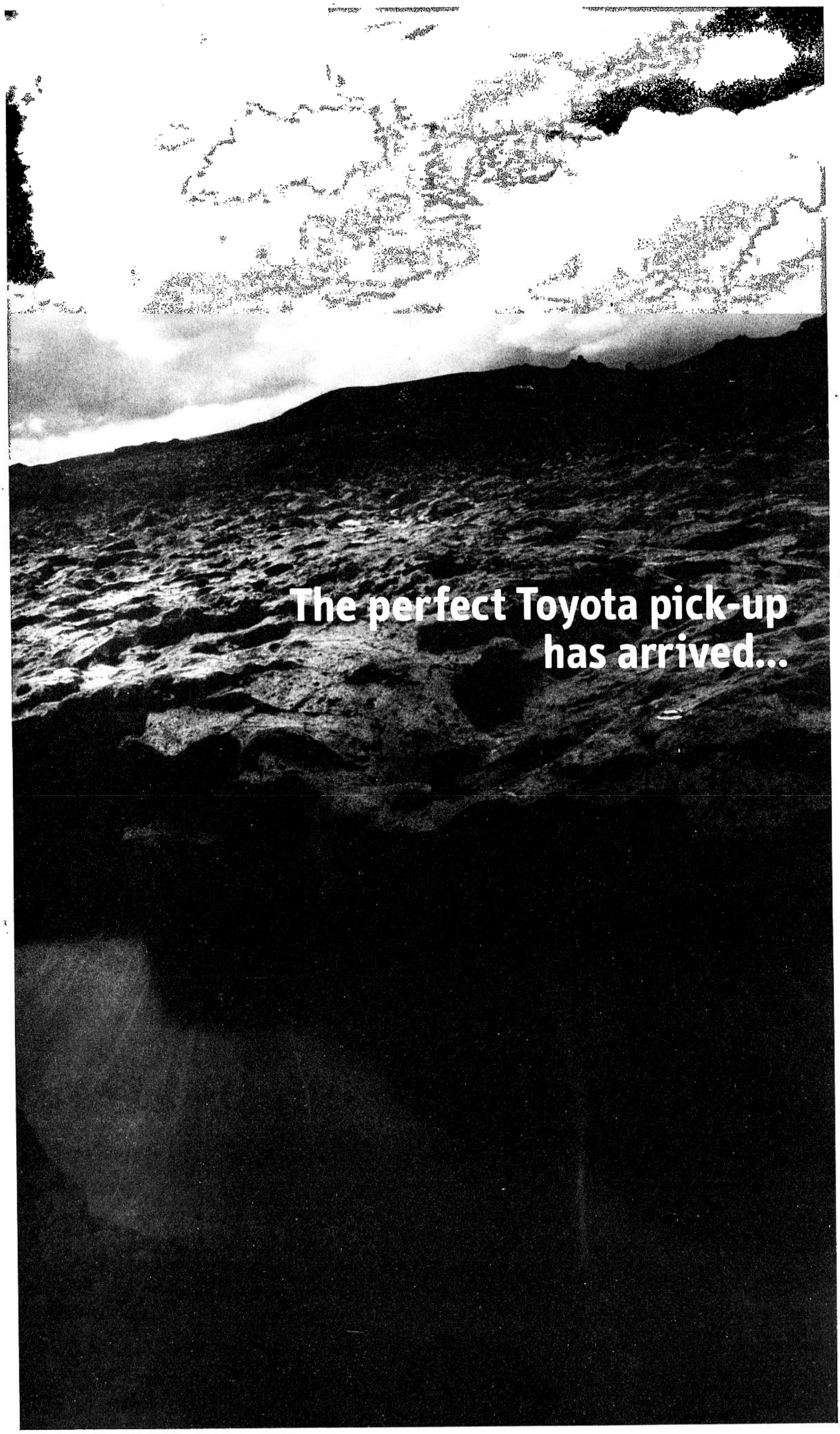
Interviewees were asked to name the best international brand across nine major product and service categories; with "best" meaning the brand that is most trusted by the consumers or the one they consider as having the best reputation in the category. Categories included financial services, alcohol, automotive, consumer electronics, luxury goods, services, personal quality goods, other personal products and consumer goods.

The results were weighted according to the population in each market, providing a representative cross-section of society. Citibank ranked first in the bank/insurance/investment service category and 27th among the 1,000 Asian most preferred brands.

The country's largest foreign bank, Citibank has been doing business in the Philippines for over 100 years and is engaged in corporate and investment banking, private banking, market research and consumer banking.

Nina Aguas, Citibank Philippines' country business manager for global consumer group said: "We are honored to be voted as Asia's most preferred bank. This recognition encourages us to continue to innovate and provide world-class products and banking services to our many clients."

In consumer banking, Citibank offers a range of credit card products including co-branded cards with industry leaders and premier banking services such as CitiGold Wealth Management and Citibanking.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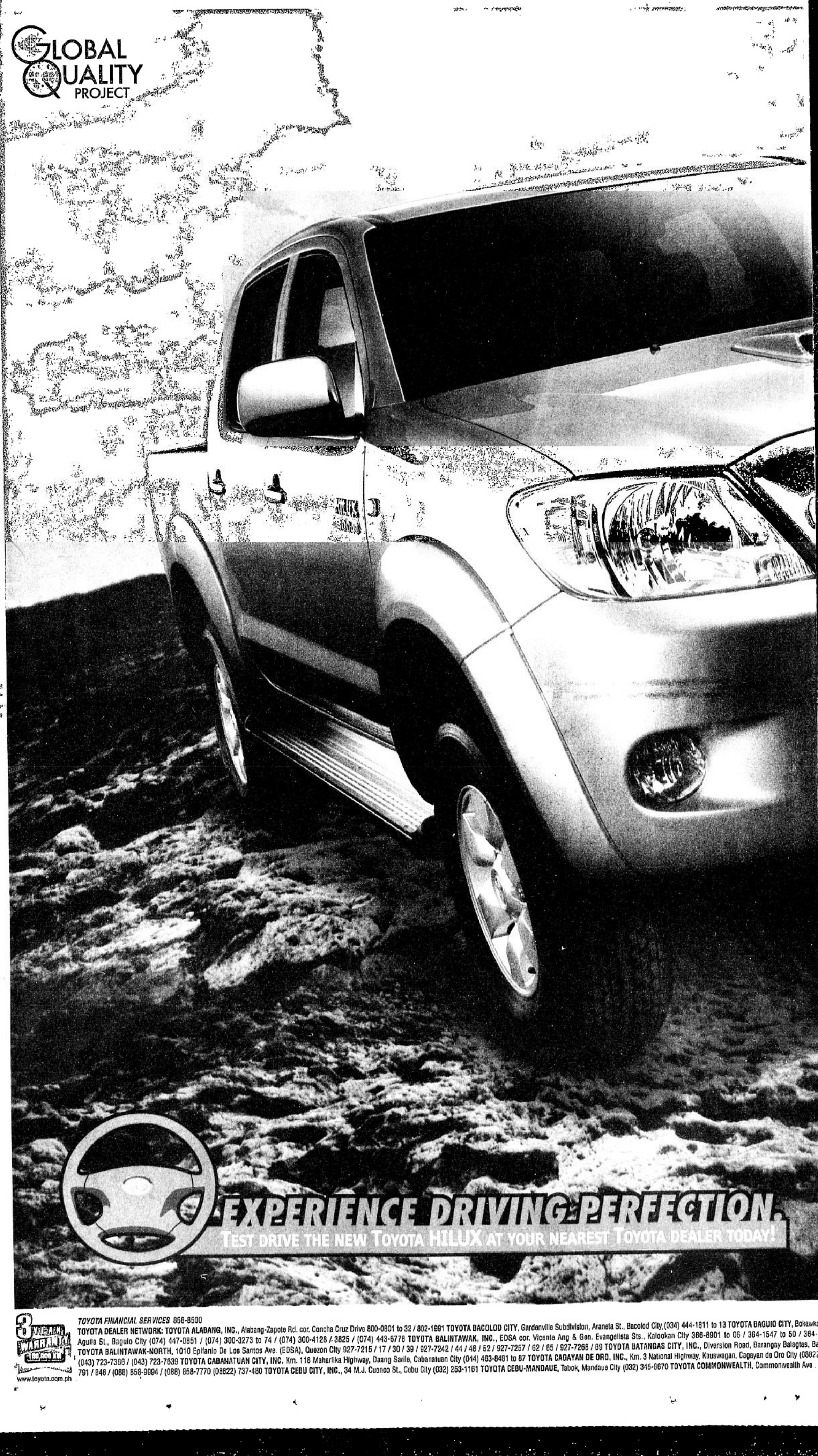

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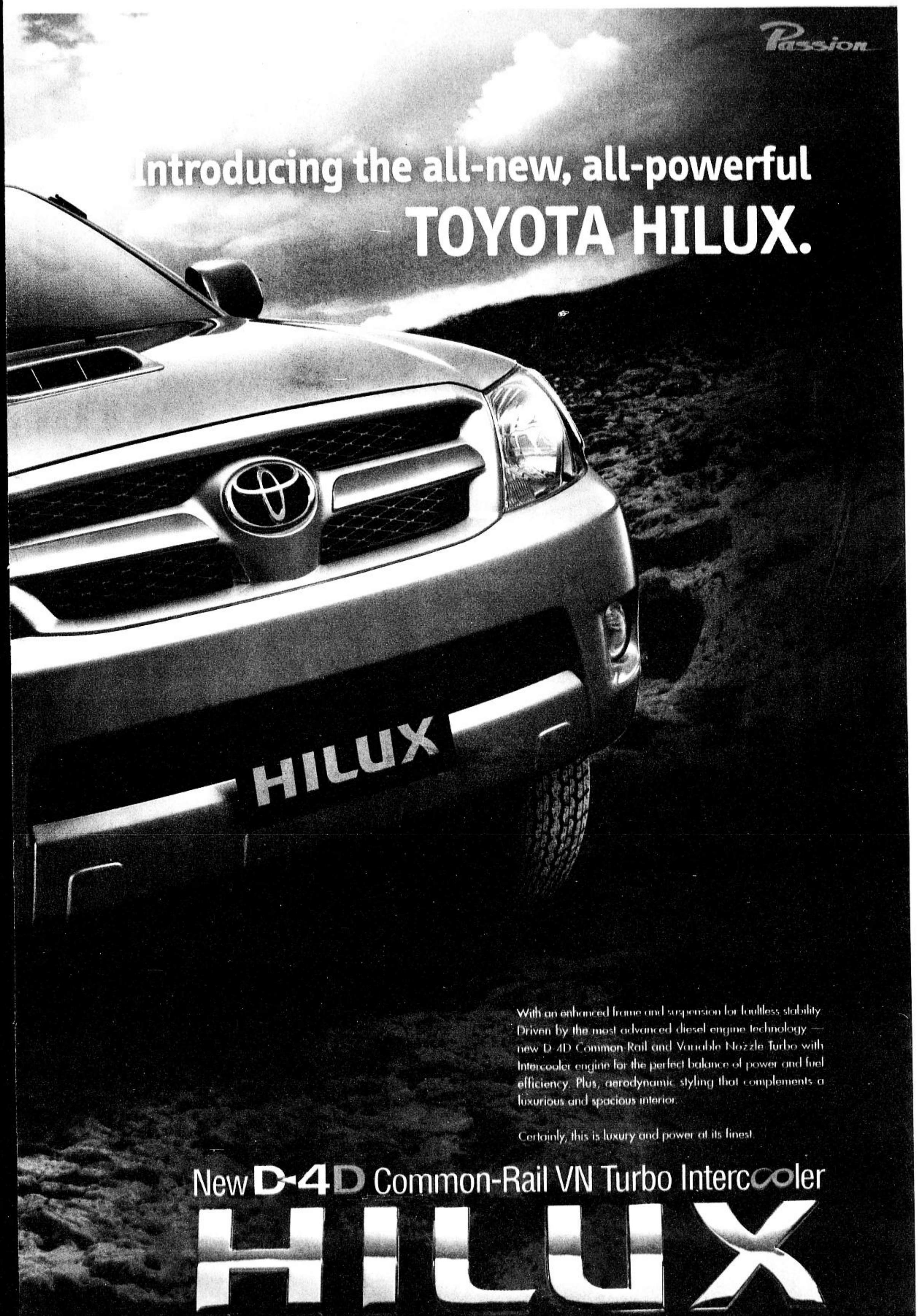

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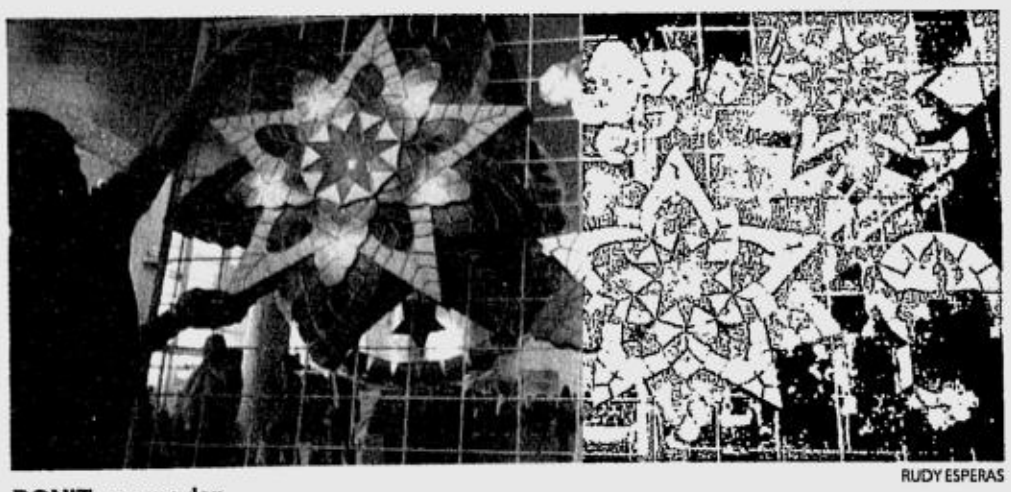
Last-minute shopping, folks?



RUDY ESPERAS

IT'S panic time for those who have not done their Christmas shopping. Not to worry. The metropolis has an abundance of shopping areas—from Divisoria to the "tiangges" of Greenhills (and a hundred other places) to the bazaars. This is one time when the upper crust mingle with the D-E crowd with both fighting their ways amid jungles of shoppers and with the same goal: Get the best bargains. The one who haggles the best is the winner. How are malls faring in this arena of underground economy? They have their own share of crowds.

M.Q. Espino

DON'T you wonder what happens to the "parols" that are not bought this year?

LAST minute shopping for Christmas decors at the World Bazaar at World Trade Center in Pasay City. RUDY ESPERAS

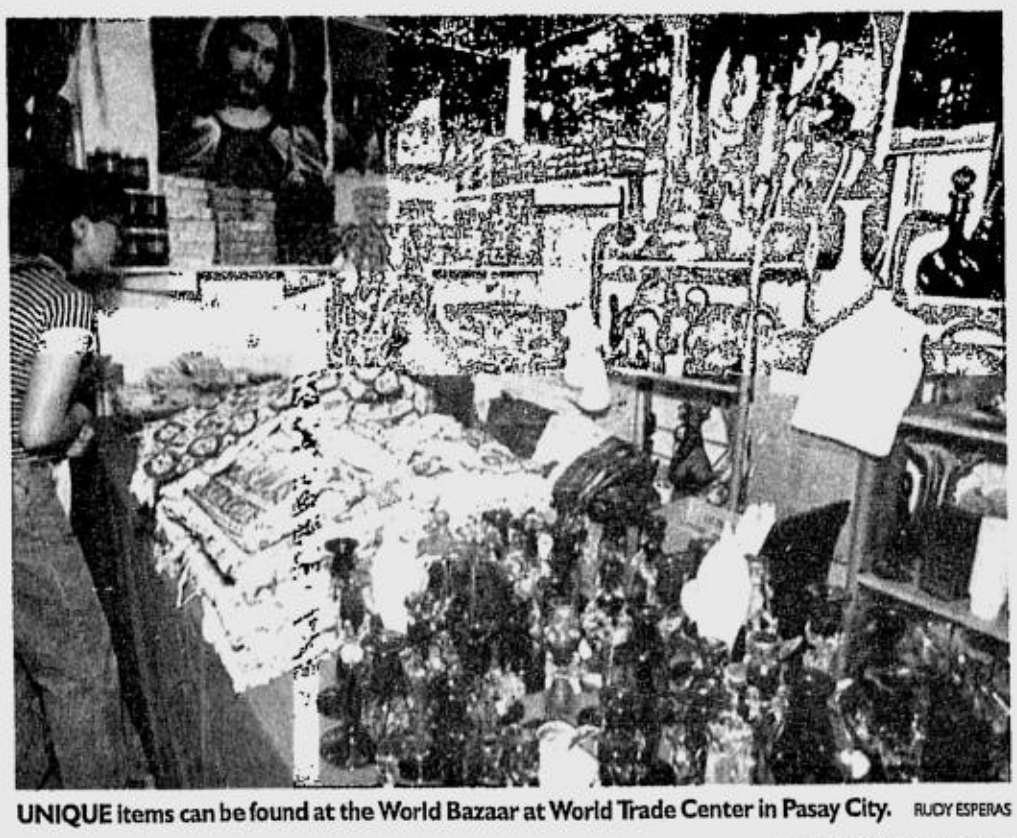
REAL or knock-offs these foreigners have fun shopping at the Greenhills tiangge. EUGENE A. ARANETA

NOW you can buy varied specialties of Philippine provinces all over the metropolis. EUGENE A. ARANETA

THE GREENHILLS "tiangge" is now one of the most popular shopping spots in Manila. EUGENE A. ARANETA

THE KEY to shopping outside the malls is to know how to haggle. EUGENE A. ARANETA

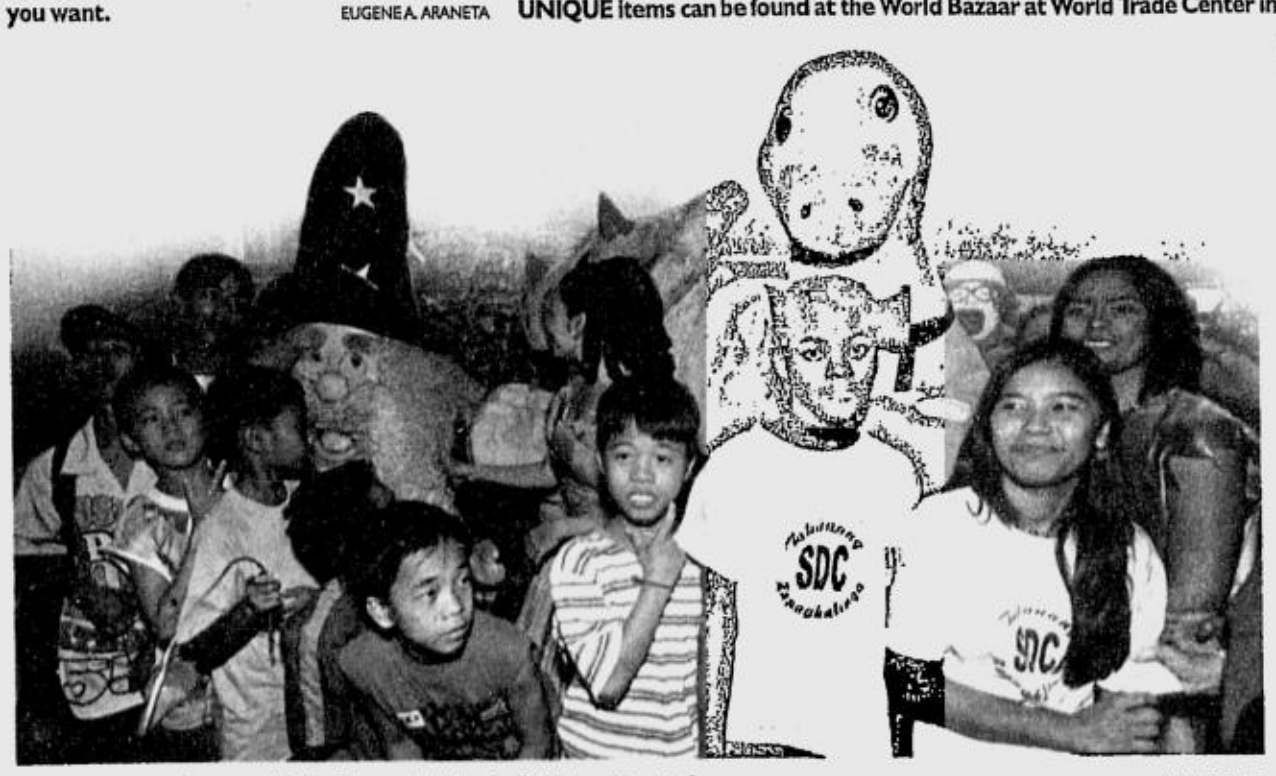
WHEN shopping for knock-offs in Greenhills, the salesladies ask what "grade of fake" do you want. EUGENE A. ARANETA



UNIQUE items can be found at the World Bazaar at World Trade Center in Pasay City. RUDY ESPERAS

EUGENE A. ARANETA

DIVISORIA remains one of the cheapest spots to shop in the country. You can find everything here.



SOME bazaars have to think of fun activities for kids to attract shoppers. RUDY ESPERAS

IMPORTED items at the Greenhills tiangge. EUGENE A. ARANETA

A 'Kingdom's thoughts on toys for tots

TOYS are obviously among the hottest sellers during the Christmas season. But many adults do not realize toys are very different nowadays, compared to 20 years ago.

SundayBiz sent Toy Kingdom, the chain of giant toy shops of the SM group, a few questions about the trends in this sector, so close to the hearts of tots.

Q: A couple of decades ago, children asked for dolls and toy guns, what do they ask for now?

A: Children nowadays ask for specific brands of toys, especially cartoon-based toys (like Power Rangers, Zoids, Disney Princess etc). They also look for interactive video games and remote control cars.

Q: Have the shopping styles of parents changed over the past few years? How could you compare this to say five years ago?

A: Shopping styles changed over the years: Parents look for value for their money in choosing a toy for their kids.

Q: Too many toys are mechanical and video-based, how do your board games fare in terms of sales? Do you promote these at all or are they relegated now to the back rooms of most toy shops? Is there an effort by toy makers to help families spend more time together via play? If yes, what sort of toys are available now that promote togetherness?

A: Board games are still one of our fast-moving merchandise. Since Filipinos, in general, are family-oriented and close, board games are played during gatherings and parties. It is a form of entertainment for the whole family, unlike video games which can only be played by a maximum of four people at a time.

Q: How would you describe the toy industry in the country right now? Are there local manufacturers? How many and what sort of toys do they produce? Is China still the main source of toys? Around how many percent? What are the sales volumes now compared with the past three years?

A: The toy industry is doing well right now. Toys are still a "must for kids." Toys is not just for fun but is now a tool for learning, discovery and skills development. Local manufacturers are now aggressive in producing toys. Usually, local manufacturers license "brands" (like Barbie, Disney, Powerpuff Girls) and make toys that carry the brand name. Kids nowadays like "branded" merchandise.

Q: Unlike in the US where there are groups that vigilantly monitor against hazardous toys (I checked the Net and there is tremendous warning re these toys yet some find their way in the Philippine market), how does Toy Kingdom, being the biggest toy shop in the country, help the public against this danger?

A: Being in the toy industry means we have to be aware of everything that is happening worldwide. We closely monitor toys and other merchandise which are recalled for safety purposes.

Q: What are your projections for sales in the next two years? What are the trends in toys? What will we see more of in the next few years?

A: Toy Kingdom's trend for next year is toward retail entertainment. We would definitely see more interactive toys—toys wherein kids can create on their own and toys that would help them in developing skills. We will also see more cinema-based toys.

Toy Kingdom recently opened a new outlet at The Podium designed to serve the new generation of kids, and toy lovers of all ages.

Located at the third level of the scale mall in the Ortigas area, the store's up market interiors highlight a series of brands in an entertaining and cohesive way by using animated props and stage lighting to exude a theatrical experience and excitement for shoppers.

Children's favorite toy characters are found in the shop—animé heroes and heroines; The Bratz, Disney Princess, Barbie, Ello, and Polly for girls, and Superhero characters, hotwheels with hot bikes and remote control toys for boys.

Learning is also fun at the new store with a Discovery Zone for educational toys, and Interactive Zone for Playstation and TV games. Other fun areas include a Cuddly Corner for soft and huggable toys, a Party Shop for party needs; Mega Blocks; and a Candy Corner for sweet treats.

The shop also carries items like Superman, Spiderman, X-Men, Incredible Hulk.

Toy Kingdom is located at the third level of The Podium.

THE BATTLE for the best handheld gaming gear is on at Toy Kingdom's Interactive Zone.

A JUGGLER entertains shoppers

MARK Bautista eyes what's latest in Spiderman

MIKEE Cojuangco, with sons Robbie and Rafael, visists the TK opening at The Podium. Also in photo are TK's Rose Dy Lim, TK The Dragon and Joan Tak

SM ILOILO OPENS. Downtown shopping in Iloilo got a boost when the new SM Department Store reopened recently. In photo are Iloilo Mayor Jerry Trenas, Felicidad Sy, Bishop Angel Lagdameo, SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr.

BICC gets SEC approval

THE BOSCONIAN International Chamber of Commerce Inc. (BICC) has been granted juridical personality and permit to operate as non-stock, non-profit organization by the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Dec. 1, 2004.

BICC is the first school-based international business organization of Salesian past pupils who are engaged in business and/or who are in the active practice of professions and are willing to promote good business sense among themselves.

The new organization opens its doors to other Bosconians in other parts of the world who prefer to do business with people coming from the same Salesian family.

The objective is simple—to do business with a heart. Through the BICC, Bosconian businessmen and professionals can discuss and pursue matters of mutual interest and benefit. It also serves as a venue where Bosconians can exercise social and community leadership and participate in national development, thus making their presence felt in the community where they operate.

BICC aims to achieve the objective through projects of common interests among Bosconians. Coming out soon is the Trade Directory which will serve as a handbook for members interested in establishing a business connection. Other projects are job matching; lectures and symposia; trade exhibits and expositions; discounts and other collateral business arrangements; and representations in government and private forums. On Dec. 2, 2004, the secretariat released the first issue of the newsletter called ChamberNews. Registered members may expect to receive their copies through the mail.

Memberships in the BICC are classified into 14 sectors making networking easier. The sectors represent the industry and professional preferences of members whose number, as of this early, is more than a hundred, and still counting. Each sector is represented by a head acting as chairman of the group.

BICC is joined by 19 distinguished Bosconians seating as members of the board of trustees. Notable among them are of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., former Treasurer Eduardo Sergio G. Edeza, former Customs Commissioner Antonio M. Bernardo, former Rep. Noel M. Cariño, DBTC Dean of College Perfecto O. Bernad Jr., Manila Port district collector Ronnie C. Silvestre, Alberto G. Soliman, Teodoro B. Javier, Luis E. Avellana, Herminio B. Coloma, Ramoncito R. Coronel, Roberto L. Duque, Renato P. Legaspi, Robert O. Li Jr., A. Pablo V. Magno Jr., Nestor S. Mangio, Ponciano S. Millena, Gerardo P. Villacorta Jr. and Alfredo G. Yatco III.

The office of the BICC is located at the second floor of the Big Chapel Building, Don Bosco Technical College, Gen. Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City. Application for membership can be done either by phone, Tel. 534-3481 or online through www.bicc.org.ph.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Shifting to organic farming made easy

By Amy R. Remo

GOOD news to all rice farmers.

Shifting to organic rice farming is now made easier, thanks to the recently launched Credit Window Program.

Agricultural credit provider Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., together with The Philippine Development Assistance Programme, Inc., has designed an affordable and accessible credit window, aimed at providing and making available regular credit and other support mechanisms to improve organic rice farmers' productivity.

Organic rice refers to rice grown without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, organic fertilizers and botanical sprays extracted from plants are used.

The credit window program will also help improve income of organic rice farmers in the three identified pilot sites in Agusan del Sur, Negros Occidental and Camarines Sur.

"With this credit window, we [at the DA] are optimistic of a full blown rice industry development aimed at reducing poverty in the country and enhancing food security," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap in a letter to the Organic Rice Technical Working Group dated Oct. 28.

At the launch of organic farming last month, Quedancor president and CEO Nelson C. Buenaflor said that organic rice farmers in the country produce around 40 tons or 800 bags at a time.

He emphasized that the Filipinos, if given the opportunity, have the capability to produce much more organic rice for a huge untapped market.

THE FILIPINOS, if given the opportunity, have the capability to produce much more organic rice for a huge untapped market.

"The market for organic rice is gigantic and the potential is enormous. We need to organize the organic rice farmers through the Self-Reliant Farmers Team (SRT) financing program," he said.

History

Sustaining about two-thirds of the world's population, rice has been a staple food for a lot of countries. Ninety percent of this unique grain is produced in Asia and grown in more than 250 million hectares of land, including the Philippines.

Due to the rapidly growing population in the country, the government has implemented modern methods of farming and introduced hybrid rice varieties.

Although these methods doubled the country's rice outputs, they, however, resulted in environment and rice farms degradation due to the chemical fertilizers and pesticides used for growing hybrid rice.

Thus, a sustainable agriculture was re-introduced in the form of organic rice farming, as a measure to address growing environmental concerns and food security.

Working hand in hand to promote organic rice farming are PDAP and ORI-TWG.

While PDAP is at the forefront assisting organic rice farmers in the marketing activities, the ORI-TWG acts as the coordinating body in the advancement of the industry.

"Realizing the importance of organic rice to small farmers, PDAP introduced in 2001 the organic rice in Metro Manila, Bicol, Iloilo, Bacolod City, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro City," says Bernie Berondo, coordinator of ORI-TWG.

Berondo says organic rice is sold under the brand "Healthy Rice" and is available in over 90 malls and supermarkets nationwide.

Since then, more farmers are taking interest in organic rice farming because of its sophisticated systems in crop rotation, soil management and pest and disease control.

Aside from its long-term ecological safety, organic rice farming also offers a more profitable source of revenue for the farmer and healthier food alternative to the consumer.

To date, organic rice production is practiced in 24 provinces across the country. Total production of almost 14,401 hectares devoted to organic rice farming yields about 115,200 metric tons a year or about 80 cavans production per cropping.

This is relatively small compared to total conventional rice production of about 13.5 million metric tons a year.

That's because of the 3.17 million hectares devoted to the total rice farms in the country, only 0.5 percent are organic rice farms, according to Berondo.

Market for organic rice

"There is a big market for organic rice both for domestic and export market," says Berondo.

Berondo says Pecuaria Development Cooperative Inc., for instance, started to sell organic rice in Metro Manila in 2001 with only 6,566 kilograms in sales volume. By 2003, its sales volume increased by 1,656 percent to 108,755 kilograms.

SHIFTING/ B2-2

Taking graphic design to a higher level

DANILO Jayme Mojica does not want CommDesign Central to be called an organization. Rather, he prefers what he calls "the graphic design resource hub" to be known as a "movement."

Mojica founded CommDesign Central two years ago out of frustration at the lack of resources for graphic designers and the seeming disorganization of the practice of graphic design in the country.

"Graphic design is just a subject in a Fine Arts course here, while in Europe and in the US, it is one whole course! Here, those who want to be professionals need to work in a design studio or in an advertising agency to learn the ropes," said Mojica, a self-taught graphic designer who owns Charcoal & Ice Communications Design, a Pasig-based studio he set up in 1999.

Using his own resources, Mojica collated a database of more than 500 of the country's best and promising graphic designers and graphic design studios, organized two competitions, and designed and produced an industry magazine aptly called "Creative," all in the last two years.

Among his goals for the 'movement' include bringing in resource speakers to teach and talk about the latest in graphic design, and eventually putting up an arts and design school with local and foreign professionals as instructors.

Others may say his goals are too lofty but Mojica says they are doable.

"My dream is to professionalize the practice of graphic design in the country and to make the Philippines known as a hub of excellent creative professionals. I know it is not possible to do it alone, which is why I started this movement, to create awareness that there is a need to improve how things are done and to collaborate with designers who are generous enough to share their creative skills and do something that will benefit the future graphic designers."

2004 CommDesign Competition finalists displayed their works during a week long exhibit at the main activity center of The Podium.

Mojica believes that successful campaigns can be traced back to the works of serious design professionals. More than just originality, the visuals of excellent designs are based on an artist's brilliant skills at communicating a message using an arsenal of design tools constantly at his disposal. And coming up with a great communications design involves a thinking process.

This, Mojica believes, is how true graphic designers are differentiated from the ones who pretend to practice graphic design. It requires tremendous amount of patience, discipline and passion.

The 'movement' also aims to improve the way clients in the Philippines look at graphic designers and what they do.

After all, many things that people encounter in their daily lives—from the billboards along Edsa to the labels of canned food that they eat, to the commercials that they watch on television—are products of graphic and creative design.

In the long-term, CommDesign's aim to professionalize the industry will result in an improved compensation and better work and training conditions for graphic design professionals.

Mojica's aspiration for the industry is hinged on what he calls the four Cs—Creativity, to take communication design in the Philippines to a higher level by challenging the work of the Filipino graphic designers, always with creative excellence as the definitive end; Camaraderie, to foster, support and expand professional relationships among designers and studios, also with their allied partners in marketing, advertising, public relations and merchandising; Continental, to expose Filipinos to international standards in art and design and the latest design tools, education and technology; and Concerns, to create awareness of the challenges graphic practitioners face and provide a venue where graphic design-related issues, concerns and challenges may be addressed, discussed and resolved.

This, Mojica has started to achieve through the Communications Design Competition, a yearly competition among the best graphic design projects in the country.

It has been ongoing for two years and has recognized the best among the best, including established and emerging names in the business. The finance the contest, Mojica tapped corporate sponsors like Epson, Apple, Adobe, LMK Commercial, Corel and ATI, Inc. He also linked up with media partners, including radio stations and newspapers.

"The goal of the 'movement' is to stimulate Filipino design professionals to new heights of creativity and ingenuity," said Mojica. "That's the way we should go and I believe we can get there with the cooperation of the creative geniuses who are so present in this country."

COMMDESIGN Central founder Danilo Jayme Mojica

Housing kids' sports clothes under one roof

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS a challenge for many parents these days to pry their kids away from their computers and playstations, and get them to go out and play.

One possible reason is that these fashion-conscious children do not have "cool" clothes and the right gear to encourage them to take up a sport.

And for those who are already into sports, the market gives them limited choices or they have to make do with the smallest sizes of adult clothes.

Entrepreneurs Jun S. Arceo, and his wife Marylou, found themselves in that predicament when looking around for clothes for their athletic children.

They thought that others might be facing the same problem, thus, presented a viable business opportunity.

That idea eventually led to Kidsports, the country's first store dedicated to the sports and casual wear needs of children, located at the 4th level of the Edsa Shangri-la mall in Mandaluyong City.

Arceo says in an interview that their idea was to provide a one-stop shop for children engaged in different sports, not just basketball.

The store offers a wide array of footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories for sports such as soccer, baseball, badminton, tennis, martial arts, swimming and golf.

Brands include Nike, Adidas, Fila, Converse, Skechers, Dunlop, Wilson, Nike Golf, Prince, Fisher Price, LA Gear, Mizuno and Speedo, who developed lines for children in recognition of the growing market.

Arceo says that before Kidsports, parents usually went to specialty stores to go to different stores to look for the right equipment for martial arts, such as tae kwon do, and basketball.

There was also a shortage in junior sized sports equipment, which discouraged many children since they could not play as well when using their parents' rackets, for instance.

But with Kidsports, he says everything is put under one roof, including the right-sized equipment for smaller hands.

Even the design and layout was conceived with the children in mind. It is executed in bright colors to encourage its target market to come in and touch and feel the goods, before making a purchase.

Specialized equipment and sports apparel are placed side by side with casual wear that children can wear after a good game.

Arceo says sales have been brisk since the store opened last August 21, which indicates that more parents and children are getting into sports.

It is about time since studies have shown the growing incidence of obesity among children.

Arceo says that with Kidsports within easy reach, he hopes more children will get into sports, which does not just build bodies, but minds as well.

Dial-up, cable or DSL?

FOR those who live a double life online, you must be familiar with the drill when it comes to connecting to the Internet through dial-up. You hook your phone into the modem, double click your dialer icon in Dial-Up Networking and mouth a little prayer while crossing your fingers that you connect as soon as possible with the least amount of tries. Of course that hardly is ever the case and after your umpteenth dial-up try, you finally get to visit the website of your choice only to suffer a common annoyance online surfers powered by a 56k modem endure-the speed, or lack thereof.

Dial-up's relatively low speed, especially during peak hours, turns the Internet from your best friend to your worst enemy as you sit on your chair helplessly anticipating for a website to load, a software, song or video to download; and your personal files to upload until the waiting eats up all your credits or you get unceremoniously disconnected for unfathomable reasons. If you have suffered enough from these dial-up mishaps, fret no more because there is a solution in sight. It is called broadband and it will take you to places you couldn't go before.

Compared to the sluggish horse buggy that is the narrowband dial-up, broadband is a high performance supercharged sports car that zooms through the Internet with lightning fast speed and efficiency. With a broadband connection, surfing, downloading and uploading data becomes dramatically faster. It also allows users the pleasure of watching more videos, listening to the radio, collecting more mp3s, playing online games and availing a wide array of online services you can't possibly experience with dial-up.

To the uninitiated, broadband may be a leap of faith. It requires more commitment than faithfully purchasing a prepaid Internet card at your nearest 24-hour convenience store. You will need to subscribe to a service, install new hardware and software and tweak your PC setting. But once you're all hooked up, you can surf to your heart's content because you're always online. You can even use your telephone while on the Internet. With broadband, your PC will instantly transform from a pansy dial-up damsel into a lean, mean online machine.

To help you make up your mind, here are four broadband options that can fulfill your need for speed.

DSL or direct subscriber line is the most popular broadband service in the country and for a couple of good reasons. The speed ranges from 128 kbps to 3 mbps, at least double what you get from the 56 kbps your modem manages to sputter out on a good day. It uses existing phone lines without hampering phone use to transmit data so you won't have to spend extra for wires and cables crawling towards your house. Also, DSL is competitively priced and some even throw in free email and other perks. However, installation is a drag with ISPs taking a couple of weeks a month to get you online. But some DSL service providers like PLDT myDSL offers a Quick Install Kit to get you up and running in as little as five days.

Cable modem does a similar job to DSL except that it utilizes the same cable used for your cable TV for transmitting information. It is also fast and efficient with speeds comparable to DSL. However, using a cable modem means you will have to share the bandwidth with your fellow cable modem subscribers, thus causing congestion especially during peak hours when most subscribers surf simultaneously. Your Internet session may start fast but eventually, the online traffic takes a toll on your speed, slowing it down significantly as the cable modem tries to accommodate more and more subscribers logging on and eating up the bandwidth.

So now that you have the lowdown on broadband, find out if your need for online speed is worth the switch from dial-up. You must also remember that broadband is fast but it isn't impervious to glitches, lagging and breakdown brought about by a computer virus, faulty hardware or ISP problems. As long as your PC is in top form and your broadband delivers reliable and consistent service, all you have to sit back and brace yourself for great virtual ride.

There are many brands of high-speed Internet available for an Internet user, but it is generally best to apply for PLDT myDSL as they have the widest coverage area. Applicants can call 171, visit their website at http://www.msn.pldtmypad.com , or go to the nearest Business Office. PLDT myDSL is also offering free trial of both their traditional DSL and their more advanced WiFi services in selected areas, giving users the chance to try before they buy."

Shifting to organic farming made easy

From page B2-1

PDCI, which is one of the producers of organic rice in Bula, Camarines Sur, pioneered the marketing of organic rice.

According to Berondo, the country has already exported 30 tons of organic rice to Switzerland through the Broad Initiatives for Negros Development, a network of TWG in Bacolod City.

Another group meanwhile, is planning to export organic rice to Europe next year.

As for the local market, Berondo says the introduction of organic rice in the market is initially difficult and costly.

For one, not too many people are aware of organic rice.

Also, the price of organic rice is 30 percent higher than the regular rice due to cost of packaging, promotions and marketing publicity.

But with the sustained exposure of the product in the market, expansion of outlets, participation in trade fairs as implemented and conducted by the TWG, more consumers were enticed to buy organics.

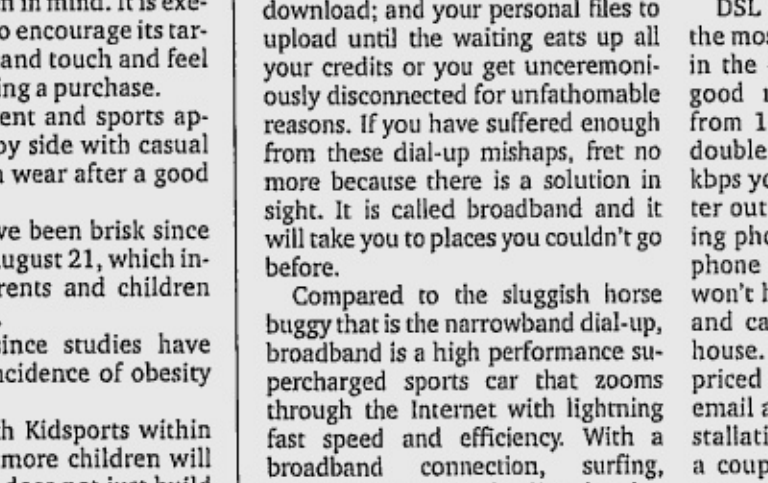
ORI-TWG and PDAP have also forged strategic partnerships with organic rice advocates like the Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, Asia-Japan Partnership Network for Poverty Reduction and the local government units.

Shifting difficulties

However, study shows that it takes about two years or at least four cropping seasons to convert to full organic farming from the conventional rice farming.

Small farmers, especially, need financial support to enable them to facilitate adoption of low cost farming technology that has been tested to produce nutritious organic rice.

This is where Quedancor's credit window program proves to be critical.



ORGANIC rice farming also offers a more profitable source of revenue for the farmer and healthier food alternative to the consumer.

The credit window program will be implemented under the Special Window Mode (SWM) facility either through the Self Reliant Team or individual scheme.

SRT is a lending program model conceived as a package of innovative-collateral free loan, technology and market access, which covers viable mono-crop, multi-cropping and other livelihood projects.

The SRT is a group of three or 15 farmers who are living in the same community and who voluntarily formed themselves into a group to participate under the program. Financial assistance shall be given to the team.

Individual scheme meanwhile, involves individual farmer borrower who wanted to avail of Quedancor program all by himself provided he or she passes all the requirements and criteria set by Quedancor.

Some of the general requirements to be able to borrow include the following:

- 18 to 64 years old at the time of application;
- must be duly identified/endorsed by PDAP in coordination with its established TWG, if applicable;
- must have sufficient knowledge/experience or willing to undergo training on the project;
- must be willing to enter into a marketing agreement or contract growing agreement with an established, accredited market buyer; and
- must own the project site or must have a long-term lease agreement wit the owner of the project site.

Additional requirements would depend on the type of scheme to be used and on who acquires the loan (individual-entity and non-entity-, partnership or corporations).

The terms of the loan shall be for a maximum of six months with an interest rate of 14 percent per annum. This is subject to 1 percent rebate for prompt or perfect on-time payments of the loan amortization.

A call center can now be a cottage industry

By Clarissa S. Batino

A DESK, a personal computer and a high-speed Internet connection are all you need to start your own call center at home.

And you can even do this as a part-time job at night, when most companies overseas are awake and doing business.

That is, of course, if you are already equipped with the skills and the training—the proper twang and the know-how to communicate well with your audience.

This is where Synergia Cybercare Inc., put up by group of Filipino investors, comes in. This firm operates a 12-seater call center and is the exclusive distributor of the web-based contact center engine developed by American firm Five9.

Synergia president Tim Keefe says the company can put up the system in a week, to any part of the country that can be reached by a high speed Internet connection.

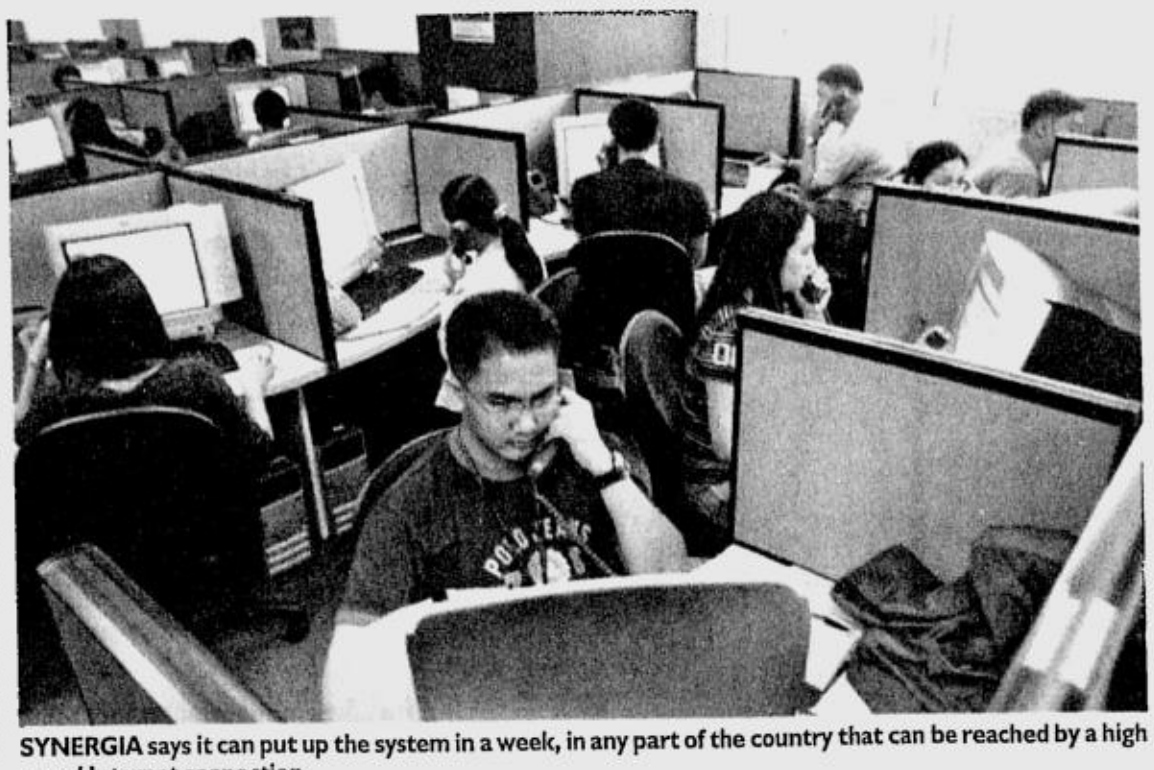
The upfront cost, he says, is minimal. Synergia charges a one-time set-up fee per seat and a monthly rental per seat. How much the fees are is something he can divulge only to potential clients.

To give you an idea, Five9 president Brian Silverman says that a typical call center could save about $200,000 in front-end cost plus about $10,000 monthly.

He recalls the company has clients elsewhere that started with two seats now run a hundred, powered by the Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP that Five9 uses to operate its system.

With the Five9 system that Synergia is tapped to sell locally, a contact center need not go to a local carrier for dedicated lines or use a landline-based system.

A million pesos in capital, says Keefe, already comes with a rented fancy condo and broadband access.



SYNERGIA says it can put up the system in a week, in any part of the country that can be reached by a high speed Internet connection.

"Even SMEs could now put up a call center. There is no upfront investment of about $200,000 required by other solutions," notes Joel Bañares, chair of Synergia.

Bañares formed Synergia together with other shareholders of Northeast Development and Acquisitions Corp. This is the company involved in the P10-billion upgrade of the South Luzon Expressway.

The former finance undersecretary believes the government would support the business plan of Synergia despite unsolved regulatory issues on the use of the VoIP.

The National Telecommunications Commission has yet to issue an order defining the use of the VoIP amid strong objections from local carriers.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. says that allowing non-telecom companies to use the VoIP is against the law, as, according to PLDT, only telecom companies must be allowed to process calls.

VoIP refers to services like voice and or voice-messaging applications that are done via the Internet, rather than the conventional public circuit switched telephone network.

The web-based technology allows long distance telephony at a much cheaper cost and carriers are worried it would compete with their business.

"Our business plan is aligned with the government's objective of making the Philippines a call center hub in Asia. It opens up opportunities in the country-side and we hope that we would have a strong government support," says Bañares.

Five9 says it had not encountered any problems on the use of the VoIP in other countries where it operates. Synergia's Keefe says the technology should not be covered by regulatory issues pending before the NTC.

According to analysts, the demand for call centers is estimated to reach $50 billion by the end of 2006.

At present, the Philippine call center industry has 40,000 seats working on three shifts. Next year, researchers say the seats would grow to 140,000 here while worldwide, it should hit 600,000 by 2009.

According to studies, revenue from call centers in the Philippines is expected to grow to $689 million this year, up 91 percent against $360 million in 2003.

Thus, why not get SMEs to join the action.

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ITALIANNI'S OPENS AT GATEWAY MALL.
Italianni's restaurant will open its newest branch at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, according to the Bistro Group. The 25- seater restaurant is set to open on Dec. 23. At the construction site were (from left) Warlito Ragot, kitchen manager; Darlene Pavilando, assistant manager; Gayzelle Guiang, general manager and Andrew Battaler, assistant manager. The opening of this new store brings to seven the number of Italianni's restaurants in Metro Manila. Last Dec. 2, the Eastwood Avenue branch was launched. Other Italianni's branches are at Greenbelt 2, Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 4, Greenhills and at SM City Bicutan. The old-world charm, delicious Italian-American cuisine and friendly service that set Italianni's apart would be brought to the Gateway Mall branch where the restaurant looks forward to serving Cubao and neighboring districts.

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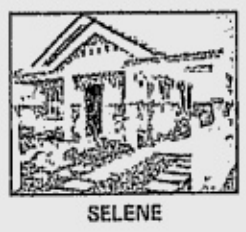
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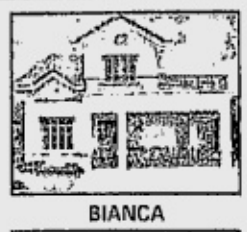
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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONRADO S. REYES has been extrajudicially partitioned among his heirs as per Doc No 48 Page No 10 Book No 22 Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty Rolando Bernardo of Q.C.
(PDI-Nov 28, Dec 5&12, 2004)

The estate of the late ERIBERTO FONTANILLA was settled by its lone heir who executed an Affidavit of Adjudication entered as Doc. #169 Page #44 Book #44 Series of 2004 by Notary Public DOMINADOR LIBATIQUE, Jr. of Makati
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NOTICE OF LOSS OF CERTIFICATES OF STOCK

Notice is hereby given that the following Stock Certificates of Bank of the Philippine Islands Incorporated were lost by Mesco Express Service Corporation while in transit for delivery pursuant to formal declaration/affidavit of its President, Gloria Mesina duly registered as Doc No. 451, Page No. 92, Book No. 3, Series of 2004 in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Federico Florendo Jr., Notary Public for and in Las Piñas City, Metro Manila, Philippines

STOCK CERT. #	NO. OF SHARES	CLIENT NAME
1 234483	65	Lydia G Pallera
2 233111	31	Myra Aquino Lee
3 230272	65	Ben A Bartolome
4 230190	65	Rogelio N Balantakbo
5 226857	120	Consuelo Marilyn Alvarez
6 234902	31	Milagros Abad Raniag
7 239100	38	Ma Theresa Tombocon
8 234794	124	Arthur Ybanez Pueta

Any person who may be in possession of said Certificates is hereby requested to present or notify any of the following: 1. The Corporate Secretary of Bank of the Philippine Islands Inc 2. MESCO Express Service Corp. of Blk 5 Lot 11 Casimiro Townhomes II Admiral Road Las Piñas City 3. BPI Stock Transfer Dept. Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Ave., Makati City FAILURE TO PRESENT NOR SERVE NOTICE REGARDING SAID CERTIFICATES OF STOCK WILL CAUSE ITS CANCELLATION AND ANOTHER SHALL BE ISSUED IN LIEU OF THE ONE LOST ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THIS PUBLICATION pursuant to the provisions of the Corporation Code

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

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GOINGS ON

Daycare for men, white lies for women

PARIS—Here are the lifestyle briefs for this week: toys for the boys as Marks and Spencer unveils in-store daycare for men. Women fed up with their menfolk moaning while out Christmas shopping can now leave them to play in their own in-store creche.

Marks and Spencer, the venerable British department store chain, this week said it was creating playpens for men in six of its stores, fully equipped with everything to keep the guys entertained for hours.

The lads will be able to settle back in sofas and watch a selection of films and TV programs such as "The Best of Monty Python" and "Football's Greatest Ever Matches."

Each area will also boast a Scalextric slot-car racing set, remote-control quad bikes and walkie-talkies. *AFP*

Honesty isn't best policy among British women

LONDON—Wriggling out of an embarrassing situation comes naturally to the vast majority of British women, according to a new poll.

They lie.

In all, 96 percent of women resort to little white lies such as the top fib, "of course you don't look fat," followed by "these shoes were only 10 (pounds, nearly 15 euros, 19 dollars)" and "the bus/train was late."

In the list of falsehoods published in the women's magazine That's Life, "I've got a headache" ranked fourth, then came "I've only had one drink," "that dress looks good on you" and "the cheque's in the post."

Fibs about age, sex and love rounded out the top ten, with "you look 10 years younger," "you're wonderful in bed," and at the end "I love you." *AFP*

Dior to open first boutique in Africa

PARIS—French high fashion house Christian Dior is to open its first boutique on the African continent, in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh, a spokesperson said.

The boutique, at the luxury Hotel Mamounia, will open this week, during the fourth international film festival in the oasis city.

Models will grace a catwalk at a show presenting Dior's spring-summer 2005 collection, and a gala dinner is planned after the inauguration, with British actors Sean Connery—to whom the film festival is paying a special tribute—and Charlotte Rampling expected to attend. *AFP*

Japanese get 'beautiful' housesitter

TOKYO—A Japanese firm said it has created a jellyfish-shaped robot that can alert homeowners to burglars or house sit for their pets—and, when not at work, lounge about and be "beautiful."

"Roborior," a transparent robot that can glow blue or red, is equipped with a camera, speaker and hi-tech sensor and can transmit information to an owner's mobile phone or sound an alarm, its creator Tmsuk said.

Designed by British artist Paul White, "Roborior" weighs 3.25 kilograms (7.15 pounds) with a height of 27 centimeters (10.8 inches) and can run at up to 19 cm per second.

Roborior costs about 300,000 yen ($29,000) and will go on sale in Japan late next year. *AFP*

Proud Italy lauds new La Scala

MILAN—Italy's cultural cognoscenti this week flocked to the gala reopening of the sumptuously refurbished La Scala opera house, restored to its former glory after a three-year 61 million euro ($81 million) makeover.

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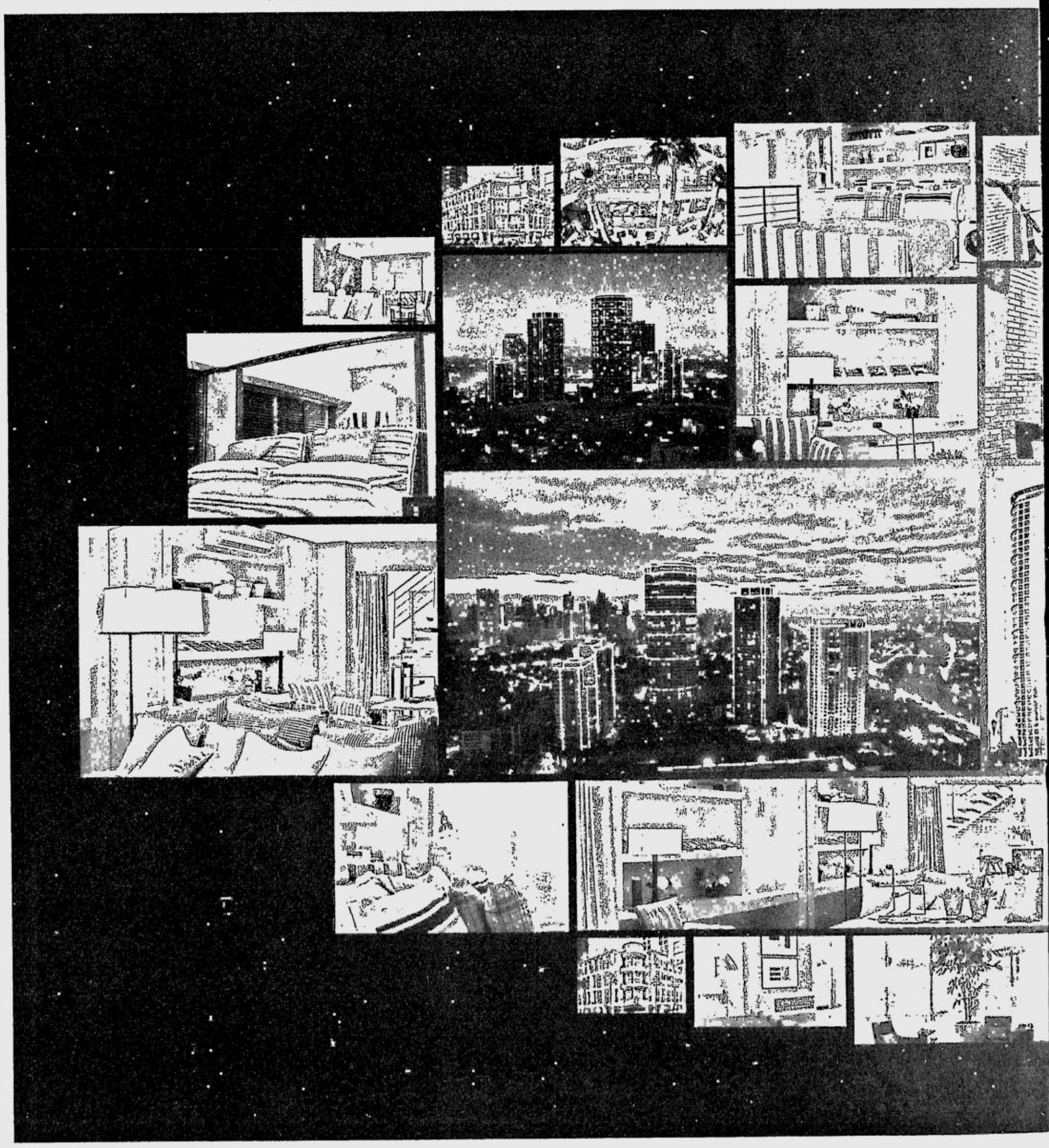

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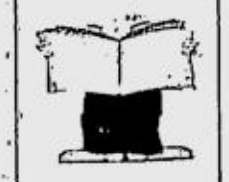

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GOINGS ON

Daycare for men, white lies for women

PARIS—Here are the lifestyle briefs for this week: toys for the boys as Marks and Spencer unveils in-store daycare for men. Women fed up with their menfolk moaning while out Christmas shopping can now leave them to play in their own in-store creche.

Marks and Spencer, the venerable British department store chain, this week said it was creating playpens for men in six of its stores, fully equipped with everything to keep the guys entertained for hours.

The lads will be able to settle back in sofas and watch a selection of films and TV programs such as "The Best of Monty Python" and "Football's Greatest Ever Matches."

Each area will also boast a Scalextric slot-car racing set, remote-control quad bikes and walkie-talkies. *AFP*

Honesty isn't best policy among British women

LONDON—Wriggling out of an embarrassing situation comes naturally to the vast majority of British women, according to a new poll.

They lie.

In all, 96 percent of women resort to little white lies such as the top fib, "of course you don't look fat," followed by "these shoes were only 10 (pounds, nearly 15 euros, 19 dollars)" and "the bus/train was late."

In the list of falsehoods published in the women's magazine That's Life, "I've got a headache" ranked fourth, then came "I've only had one drink," "that dress looks good on you" and "the cheque's in the post."

Fibs about age, sex and love rounded out the top ten, with "you look 10 years younger," "you're wonderful in bed," and at the end "I love you." *AFP*

Dior to open first boutique in Africa

PARIS—French high fashion house Christian Dior is to open its first boutique on the African continent, in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh, a spokesperson said.

The boutique, at the luxury Hotel Mamounia, will open this week, during the fourth international film festival in the oasis city.

Models will grace a catwalk at a show presenting Dior's spring-summer 2005 collection, and a gala dinner is planned after the inauguration, with British actors Sean Connery—to whom the film festival is paying a special tribute—and Charlotte Rampling expected to attend. *AFP*

Japanese get 'beautiful' housesitter

TOKYO—A Japanese firm said it has created a jellyfish-shaped robot that can alert homeowners to burglars or house sit for their pets—and, when not at work, lounge about and be "beautiful."

"Roborior," a transparent robot that can glow blue or red, is equipped with a camera, speaker and hi-tech sensor and can transmit information to an owner's mobile phone or sound an alarm, its creator Tmsuk said.

Designed by British artist Paul White, "Roborior" weighs 3.25 kilograms (7.15 pounds) with a height of 27 centimeters (10.8 inches) and can run at up to 19 cm per second.

Roborior costs about 300,000 yen ($29,000) and will go on sale in Japan late next year. *AFP*

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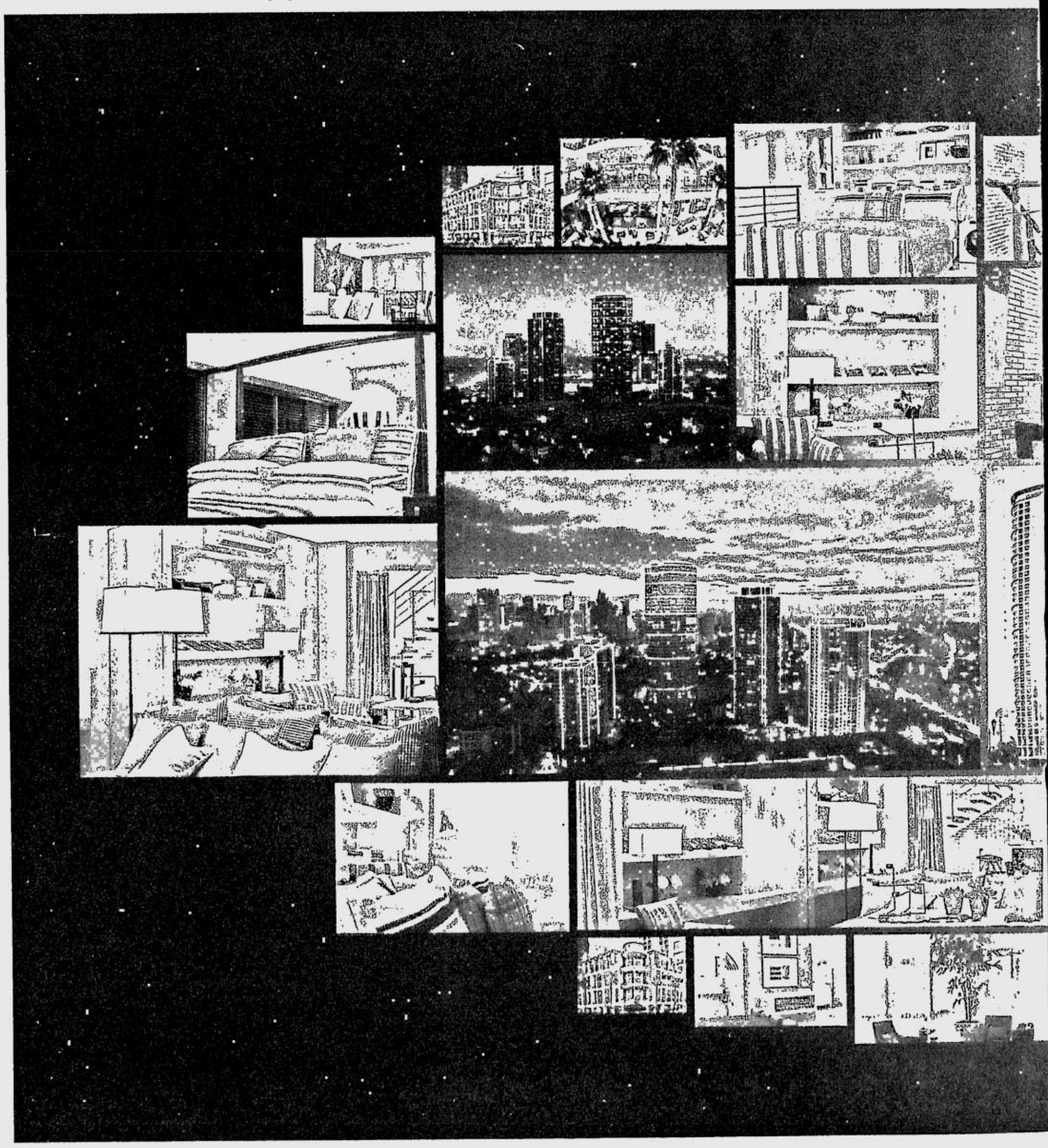

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Clothes maker turns hotelier in her own resort

AMOR S. Bona

THAT she loves the beach is pretty obvious.

Quite naturally, when entrepreneur Amor Bona first caught a glimpse of the "undiscovered" paradise that is Bolinao, she was instantly and irrevocably smitten.

Amor and husband Lucero Bona are both certified beachcombers who have traveled to some of the most exotic and exquisite sites in the world.

Still, when they "serendipitously" discovered Bolinao through a good friend, they were impressed enough not just to buy a sprawling piece of beach-front real estate, but also to develop the luxurious Puerto del Sol resort, the only de luxe destination in the area.

Originally, they merely wanted to build a vacation house, where they, along with their children, could unwind after a week of hard work in Manila. (The Bonas' original enterprise is the very successful Pink Soda and Blue Soda clothing company.)

But realizing the promise of Bolinao as the Boracay-Bohol-and-Palawan of the future, Amor decided to throw her wide-brimmed hat into the hotel-and-resort ring.

She now applies the same innovative and enterprising business skills she has honed in the fashion world in the hotel-and-resort business. Amor adjusted to her new role as hotelier and resort-owner, ably supported by husband Lucero, general manager Roger Begre, Genesis Hotels and Resorts president Miguel Cerqueda, and Marketing head Renne Isidro.

Recently, Amor was also elected as president of the Bolinao Hotel, Resort, and Restaurant Owners Association (BHRROA).

The gung-ho business leader is taking over the reins of the 25-strong organization, with the goal of further promoting and developing the tourism possibilities of Bolinao, Pangasinan.

"Our goal is to let the world know of the wonders of Bolinao," Amor attests. "The organization will be the one coordinating the different tourism-related activities in the town, like the fiesta and the Bangus Festival. We have so many plans in the future. But first things first, we have to secure the cooperation of all the members."

In close coordination with Mayor Alton Celeste and his sister Maggie Celeste, Amor is steering the organization to promote and protect the treasures of Bolinao at the same time.

"I just learned that the Patola, the lighthouse will be turning 100 years old next year," she pipes in. "We should come up with a celebration to commemorate that milestone."

PUERTO del SOl's swimming pool

On her own, she has been moving mountains to put Bolinao on the map. She even came up with a website for the resort and Bolinao, for one (www.puertodelsol.com.ph).

"In all my endeavors, I make it a point to promote not only my resort Puerto del Sol, but to popularize the whole of Bolinao," she remarks. "It's because I firmly believe that you cannot succeed as a resort if the place where your resort is located is not well-known. That's how Boracay, Bohol and Palawan got started as prime tourist destinations."

Amor hopes Bolinao, with its pristine white beaches, will soon join the big three of Philippine tourism.

"When we join trade fairs like the Northern Luzon exhibits of the Department of Tourism at the Clark Shell in Intramuros, we devote our booth not just to Puerto del Sol, but to the whole of Bolinao," she pipes in. "My vision is to see a unified BHRROA, to maximize Bolinao's potential as an unexplored paradise."

"When the Subic International Airport finally opens, the trip to Bolinao will be shortened considerably," she waxes optimistic. "At present, it is six or so hours away from Manila. But from Subic, Bolinao is only a two-and-a-half-hour drive away. Bolinao is the nearest white-sand beach destination from Subic."

Although Puerto del Sol's present client base consists mostly of locals, it is also slowly building a strong following among foreigners.

"Most of our foreign guests learn about the resort through our website," she proffers. "Or they see our signboards on their way to Alaminos and the Hundred Islands."

With utmost confidence, Ms. Amor can lay claim to the fact that Puerto del Sol is the only world-class, Triple A or De Luxe hotel-resort in the area.

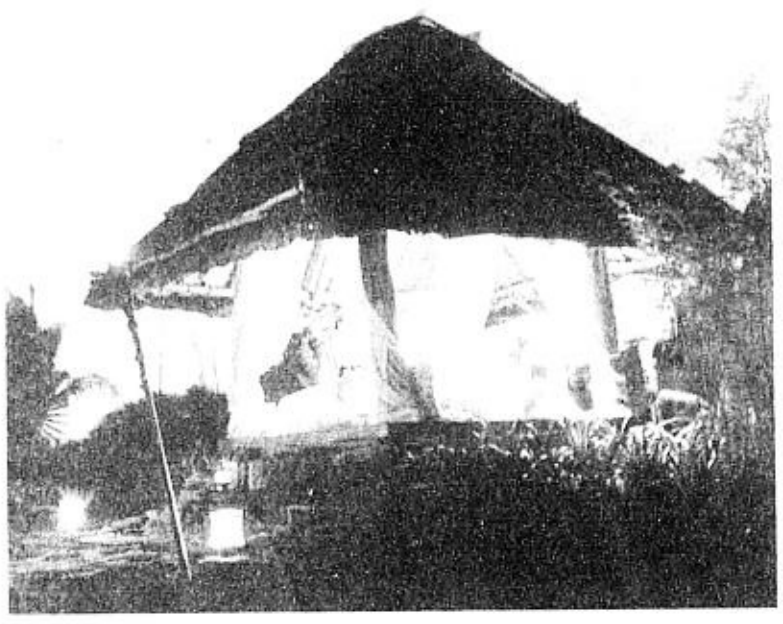
"We have 24-hours electricity, fully air-conditioned rooms, running water," she beams with pure pride. "And we offer cuisine that is whipped up by chef Tony Miranda, who has trained in some of the best five-star hotels in Manila."

Amor constantly seeks to bring five-star luxury and comfort to the rustic town of Bolinao.

"Even though you are far from Manila, you won't miss at all the modern conveniences of the city," she quips. "But at the same time, you can really enjoy the peace and quiet that Bolinao offers. It's really perfect for detoxification, for escaping from the noise, the chaos, the stress and smoke of the city."

That's exactly why Ms Amor and her staff have cooked up special New Year packages for the holiday revelers.

"You can now start the year right by experiencing the unspoiled beauty of nature in Bolinao," Ms Amor asserts. For inquiries call 6378963/6352547/6312861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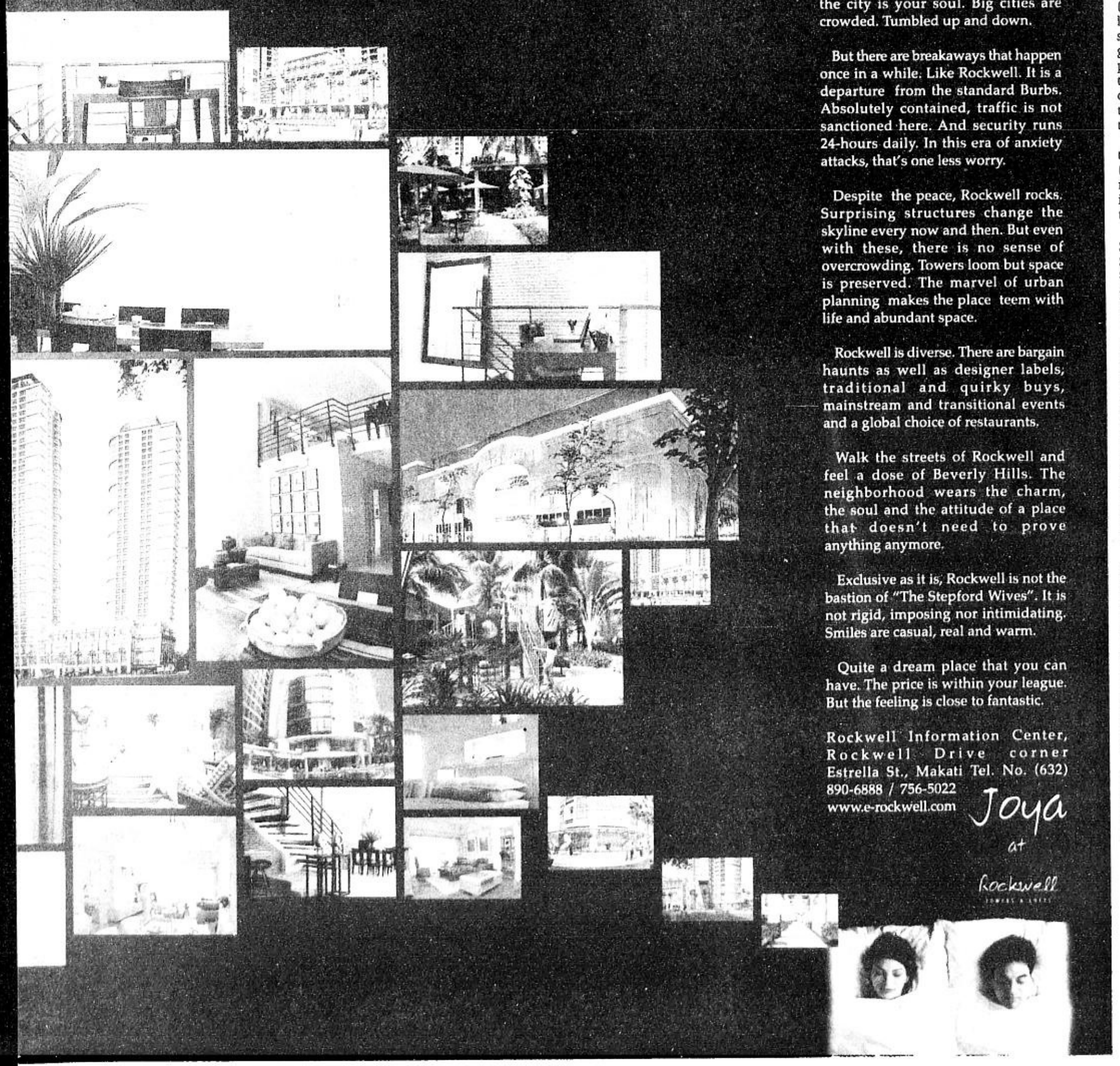

AIM launches EntrepAsia

THE ASIAN Institute of Management (AIM) recently launched "EntrepAsia," a pioneering program that aims to support young entrepreneurs in their quest to uplift the nation through innovative entrepreneurship.

This is in cooperation with the LET'S GO (Leading Entrepreneurs Towards Sensing Global Opportunities) Foundation.

The EntrepAsia program features a delegation of entrepreneurship students, faculty and entrepreneurs will be visiting different Asian countries.

They will familiarize themselves with the intricacies of doing business with each country and establish valuable business networks that will hopefully lead to successful business ventures. This program is in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda for economic recovery.

"EntrepAsia will enable future entrepreneurs to view Asia as its marketplace, open up their horizons, and give them the opportunity to see first-hand how the entrepreneurs of neighboring countries do business in the midst of globalization," said AIM president Roberto F. de Ocampo.

"The exposure will be a valuable learning experience for the delegates as they create jobs and generate economic activity in their respective communities."

Delegates of EntrepAsia will visit the countries of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, and Korea. The trips will provide the delegates with relevant and timely information about each country, and the network to strengthen their businesses.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

of DTI agencies located at the Main Building (361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City)

DTI offices in other buildings have retained their old phone numbers.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Consumer Welfare & Trade Regulations Group (CWTRG)	751-34-37 / 890-25-21
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations Group (ROG)	751-33-34 / 751-33-95
Office of the Head of the Management Services & Support Group (MSSG)	751-59-84
DTI-NCR-Business Name Registration Center (BNRS)	751-31-90 / 751-31-92 751-03-84 local 2124
Bureau of Trade Regulation & Consumer Protection (BTRCP)	
Consumer Welfare Division	897-73-84 751-03-84 local 2223
Bureau of Domestic Trade (BDT)	
Office of the Director	751-32-23
Supply Chain Management Division	751-32-27 751-03-84 local 2242
Market Information Division	751-32-28 751-03-84 LOCAL 2240
Market Development Division	751-32-29 751-03-84 local 2243/2244
Philippine Shippers' Bureau (PSB)	
Office of the Director	751-33-04
Registration & Accreditation Division	751-33-07
Shipping Negotiation Division	751-33-08
Freight Center	751-33-09
Bureau of Product Standards (BPS)	
Office of the Director	751-31-23
Standards Development Program	751-47-35
Standards Promotion & Media Relations	751-47-48
Product Certification Program	751-47-24
Standards Information Services	751-47-36
Laboratory Accreditation Scheme	751-47-07
Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)	
Office of the Director	751-32-60
Office of the Assistant Director	751-32-61
ASEAN Desk	751-03-84 local 2364/2371
Bilateral Relations Division	751-03-84 local 2370/2368
WTO Desk	751-03-84 local 2372/2362
APEC Desk	751-03-84 local 2367/2376
Receiving Area	751-03-84 local 2360/2375
National Consumer Affairs Council (NCAC)	
Office of the Director	751-47-83
Women Business Council Phils. (WBCP)	
Office of the Director	751-33-85
Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)	
Office of the Director	751-47-75
Secretary	751-47-76
Counselling & Litigation Division	751-47-73
Legislation & Documentation Division	751-47-71
Trade & Industry Information Center (TIIC)	
Office of the Director	751-31-96
Frontline Services & Documentation Division	897-53-09
Library	751-03-84 local 2210/2211
Office of Special Concern (OSC)	
Office of the Director	751-59-25
Special Project Research & Development Division	751-59-39
Special Project Coordination & Monitoring Division	751-59-40
Human Resource Development Service (HRDS)	
Office of the Director	751-31-36
Manpower Planning & Evaluation Division	751-31-32
Training & Development Division	751-03-84 local 2611
Management Information Service (MIS)	
Office of the Director	751-31-37
Help Desk Support	751-31-40
Systems Plan & Policy Implementation	751-31-41
Systems Development	751-31-42
System & Network Administration	751-31-43
Web Team	751-31-44
Maintenance & Trouble Shooting	751-03-84 local 2555
Financial Management Service (FMS)	
Office of the Director	751-32-15
Budget Division	751-03-84 local 2475
Accounting Division	751-03-84 local 2482
Receiving/Processing Section	751-03-84 local 2465
Remittance Section	751-03-84 local 2470
General Administrative Service (GAS)	
Office of the Director	751-32-40
Personnel Division	751-03-84 local 3243/3244
General Services Division	751-03-84 local 2430/2432
Support Section	751-03-84 local 2431
Supply Section	751-03-84 local 4996
Cashier Section	751-03-84 local 2438
Motorpool Section	751-03-84 local 2105
Records Section	751-03-84 local 2434
DTI - Commission on Audit (COA)	
Office of the Resident Auditor	751-55-56

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AOWA

AOWA ELECTRONIC PHILS., INC.

NOTICE OF SHIFTING OF AOWA Headquarters Office

Effective December 11, 2004, we will be at the following address:

AOWA ELECTRONIC PHILS., INC.
Unit 3304-3308, 33rd Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Trunk Lines : 914-7770 to 75 (6 Lines)
Fax Nos. : 914-7778 - Admin Department
: 914-7781 - Executive Secretary
: 914-7782 to 83 - Accounting Department
Cellphone Nos : 0917-8535314 - (Ms. Joan)
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PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Efren S. Garcia** whose picture and address appear below has ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination of his agency contract effective June 15, 2004.

MR. EFREN S. GARCIA
799 Mabini Street, Caridad, Cavite City 4100

Any transaction made or entered into by this person for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after June 15, 2004 is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI–December 12, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We wish to inform the public that the following FUJI ELECTRIC FREQUENCY INVERTERS were irregularly and fraudulently obtained by EXIST INDUSTRIAL SERVICES owned and registered under the name of Mr. Jesus "Jess" C. Lee from Yu Eng Kao Electrical Supply & Hardware, Inc. In case they are subsequently sold, Yu Eng Kao Electrical Supply & Hardware, Inc. will be in no position to determine if they still retain their original good condition and, for this reason, it will not be honoring the warranties for the said inverters. In view of this notice, we are also informing the public that any buyer or purchaser of these inverters will be subject to prosecution and thus liable under the law.

FUJI INVERTER	QTY.	SERIAL NO.	FUJI INVERTER	QTY.	SERIAL NO.
FVR220G7N-2	2	841871S011 841871S013	FRN5.5G11S-2JE	21	281235S0013A 232226S0016 232226S0011 232226S0001 281235S0022A 232226S0004 232226S0023 232226S0008 281235S0008A 232226S0006 232226S0022 281235S0003A 281235S0009A 232226S0013 232226S0020 281235S0002A 232226S0015 232226S0012 281235S0016A 232226S0019 281235S0010A
FVR037E7S-2	1	575191R036			
FVR7.5E11S-2JE	1	281248S008C			
FRN5.5G11S-2JE	1	23226S0002			
FVR2.2E9S-2JE	2	988220R019 988220R016			
FVR0.4C11S-2JE	1	2X5225R0005			
FVR0.75E11S-2JE	1	232233R0006B			
FVR015E7S-2	1	7X1750R099			
FVR185G7S-2EX	1	431842S003			
FRN18.5G11S-2JE	2	281239S0002A 281239S0001A			
FRN11G11S-2JE	2	281237S0004A 281237S0005A			

Should you come across any of these inverters, please call **MELBA ONG / PAUL PINEDA** at **(02) 251-2881 to 92** for proper disposition.

(PDI–December 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested bidders to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the re-bidding of the following requirement, viz:

One (1) Unit Reconditioned Japan Surplus Wheel Loader

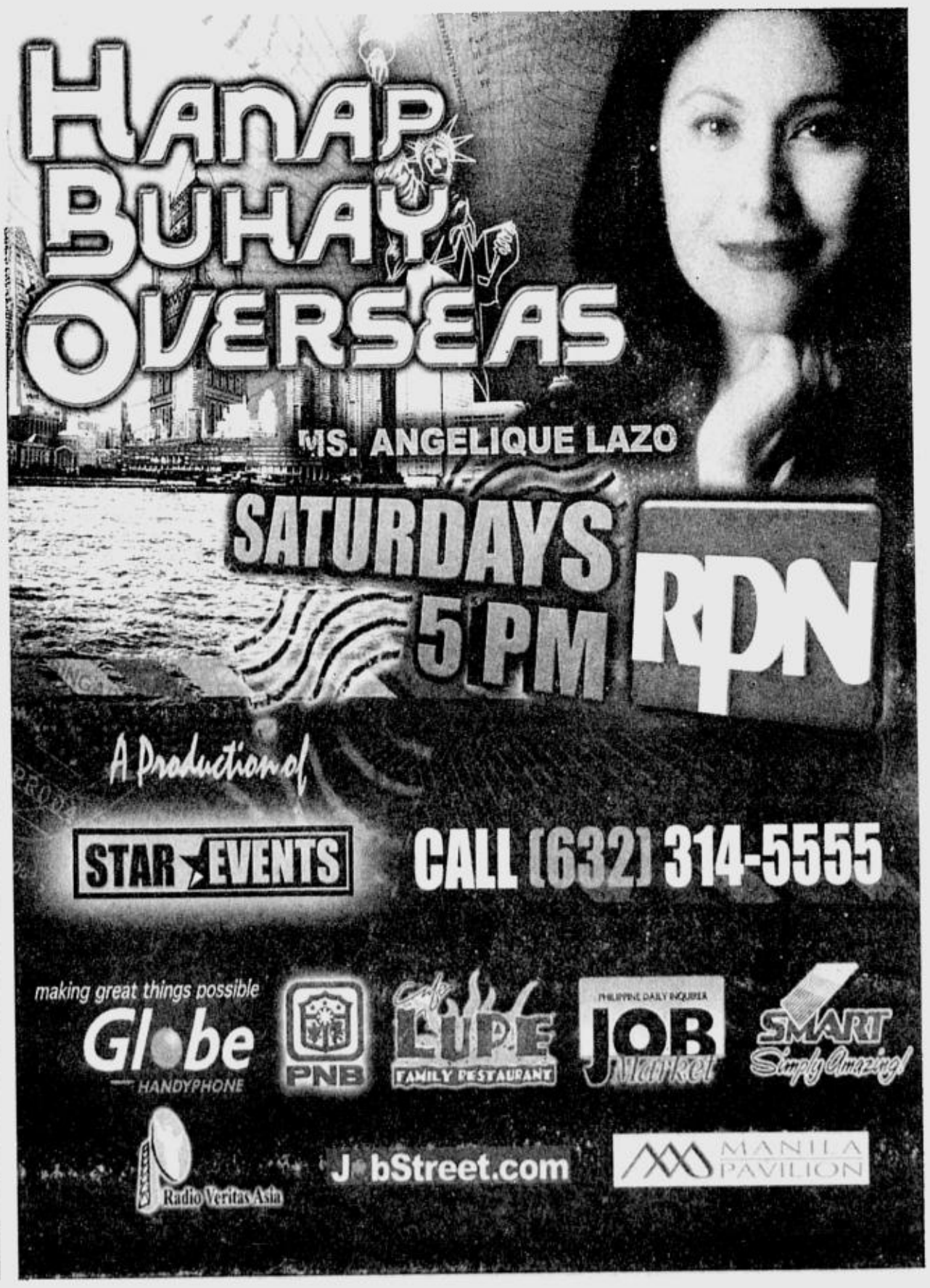
The list of pre-qualification requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax # (035) 225-2433.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on December 21, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO while the submission and opening of bids is scheduled on January 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. also at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) ATTY. ISMAEL MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – December 12 & 19, 2004)



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Jon Almonares
Rodrigo Baldoza, Jr.
Alexander Gamboa
Jocelyn Carreon
Louie Lim
Pamela Jane Sangalang
Gil, Jr. Padit
Joanna Marie Gumboc
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Suyen Corporation, parent company of the country's biggest names in fashion retail, is in search for customer-oriented people who can be part of our team.

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- Male, between 21-28 years old
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- Basic knowledge in space planning and interior design
- Must have strong visual, written, oral and electronic presentation skills

STORE SUPERVISORS

- Female; single or married, with pleasing personality
- Between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any business related courses
- With or without experience

SUYEN CORPORATION 2214 Tolentino Street, Pasay City 1304 Philippines
t 8872311 • f 8848150 • e hr@benchtm.com • w www.benchtm.com

You may personally submit your resumé with recent 2x2 picture to the above address. Look for Ms. Pam Navarro.

A medium-sized commercial bank is in need of a dynamic, self-driven individual for the position of:

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Applicants must be between 30 to 40 years old. The position will have a rank ranging from AVP to VP, depending on the qualifications, and will be responsible for:

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Ortigas Center P.O. Box No. 13914
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Senior Positions for Major Coral Reef Fisheries and Trade Reform Project

The Marine Aquarium Market Transformation Initiative (MAMTI) is a major project focused on coral reef fisheries and trade reform in Indonesia and the Philippines. The objective of the project is to replace destructive collection practices for marine aquarium fish and corals in these countries with an ecologically and economically sustainable approach. The project is focused almost entirely on the village level, and will build the capacity of a significant number of aquarium fish collector groups and their communities to conform to the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) Certification Standards. Fishers will be trained in best practices for aquarium fish collection and husbandry, coral reef management and basic business principles. The project will work with stakeholders to establish management plans for the collection areas, based on scientific assessment and monitoring for the reefs and stocks. The project is funded by grants from the Global Environmental Facility, as well as a number of Foundations and unilateral aid organizations.

We are recruiting six senior positions for offices in the Philippines and Indonesia.

1. **MAMTI Project Director**
2. **MAMTI Project Business Development/M&E Manager**
3. **MAMTI Project Human Resources Manager**
4. **MAMTI Project Financial Officer**
5. **Philippines Project Manager**
6. **Philippines Business Development Manager**

Detailed descriptions of all positions can be viewed at http:/www.cciforum.org/careers.html.

Applicants please send detailed cover letter, curriculum vitaé, and most recent salary to:

Melissa Clack
Conservation and Community Investment Forum
423 Washington Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Fax 415-982-7989
Mamti.job@ceaconsulting.com

The closing date for application is December 15, 2004

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- Fluent in English & Tagalog
- Not more than 33 years of age
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Apply in person with resumé and ID photo at:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ORIENTAL TIN CAN & METAL SHEET MFG.
64 Gen. Luis St., Sitio Kapre,
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We are a five-year old company that has made its mark in the remanufacture and reconditioning of trucks and equipment. We are known in the industry for our dynamism, professionalism, and our outstanding track record.

We are looking for marketing / sales agents who will comprise our 2005 Sales Training Program. We offer attractive commission packages, professional marketing and management support training, and other benefits.

Please submit application letter and comprehensive resumé at our office and showroom at 933 EDSA, Quezon City, or fax to 410-9224 / 927-1735 or send by email to: glctruck@yahoo.com

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TRANSMISSION MAINTENANCE STAFF

Qualification:
- Male
- 24 to 35 years of age
- Mechanical or Electrical Engineering Graduate (With or Without Licensed)
- Minimum 3 years experience in Electrical

DESCRIPTION OF WORK
- Knowledgeable in Mechanical & Electrical Schematic Diagram
- Knowledgeable in CNC & Die Casting Machine
- Preparation & Implementation of Machine Preventive Maintenance Plan
- Control of Manpower & with High Analytical Skill

All Interested applicants may call HPMC office. (049) 541-1625 or (02) 843-3018 & Look for Mark Anthony Aala (GAO Staff)

Immigrate to Nova Scotia (Canada)
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CSIC Licensed Canadian Immigration Consultant **Ms. Marie Deltz** will be in Manila on December 20, 2004 to January 7, 2005.

FOR PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS W/ A NETWORTH OF $300,000 TO $799,000, & AT LEAST 3 YEARS OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE
CIC IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING MEDICAL & SECURITY CHECKS FOR NOMINEE APPLICATIONS WITHIN A 6-9 MONTH PERIOD.

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Looking for

TRADE RETAIL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:
- New Graduates Preferred
- 20-25 years old
- willing to do field work
- can work under pressure
- female
- aggressive
- pleasing personality and service oriented

Please send or drop your resumés at #18 Kamuning Road, Unit 2-E K-Plaza Building, Quezon City.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR A BRAIN TRANSPLANT

Multimedia Entertainment Organization has several "to die for" positions avail-

LICENSING EXECUTIVES/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Young & mature-minded, 26-32 yrs. old, experienced in Sales Production, Intellectual Properties and Franchise Selling. Graduate of Marketing or any business-related course. With at least 4 yrs exp. in Sales/ Marketing Account Management. Preferably with own car. Chinese speaking is an asset. Free to travel here

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 264 to 312 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a Marketing environment. Must love the **GOOD LIFE**. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME. Free to travel here and abroad. Willing to work long hours when required.

The pace is super-fast, the atmosphere ultra-positive and the rewards unlimited such as foreign travel. If you are ready for this opportunity and not afraid of things that "look like work", then send in your comprehensive resume & passport size photo to: empirent@mozcom.com or mail to

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USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential appliances, on an **"AS IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

Washers	Dryers	Refrigerators
Gas Ranges	Water Heaters	Window type Air Conditioners
Air Cleaners	Vacuum Cleaners	Microwave Ovens
Desk Fans	Bug Zappers	Other miscellaneous items

All items can be inspected and bid placed on December 13 and 14, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: **Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) are done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on December 16 and 17, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

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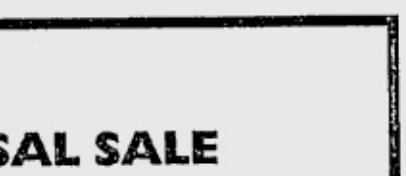

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

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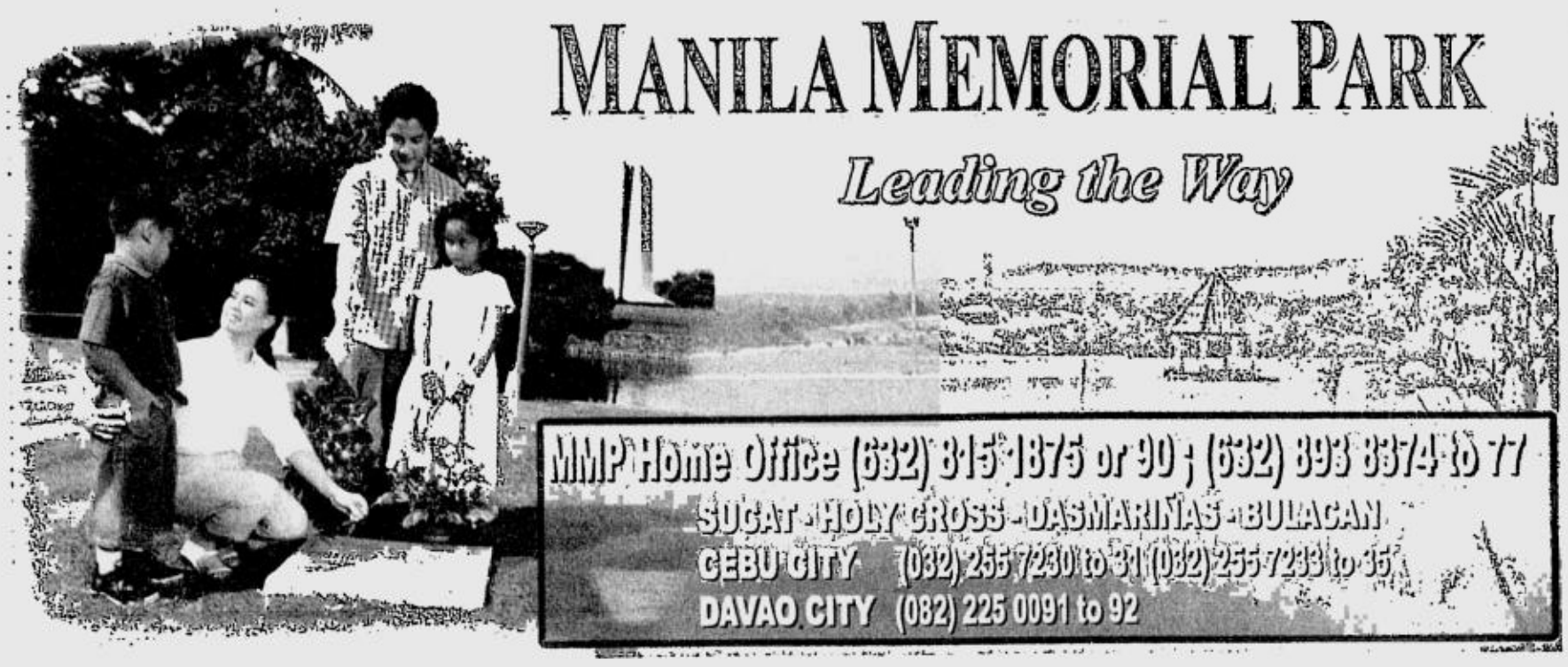
Day before publication



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Payment in full prior to publication
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IN REMEMBRANCE
OF THEIR BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES

NICOLAS L. CUENCA, Sr.

December 6, 1896-1970

CRISTINA MAGSAYSAY CUENCA

December 15, 1910-1968

Masses will be offered at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, BelAir 2, Makati City on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 6:30 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

their children

RUDY & YASMIN
MANUEL (†)
NICK & NOEMI
EDDIE & PINKY

and their grandchildren and great grandchildren lovingly remember them in prayers

JUAN MILAÑO MEDALLA

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 11, 2004 at the age of 78.

His loving wife, **Elvira;** children **Joel & Linda, Tom, Vicky & Raymund, John & Betsy, Elmer & Joanna;** grandchildren **Cecille, Bernard, Sarah, Bea, Carlos, Naui, Najee, Ianna;** sisters **Sr. Carmel, Juanita, Sr. Catherine, Lally;** brothers- and sisters-in-law **Linda, Corazon, Manolo, Carmen, Daniel, Lourdes** request relatives and friends to join in expressing gratitude to the Lord for his life – a loving and faithful husband, father and brother.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the funeral mass on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, at 9:00 AM at Santuario de San Antonio Parish.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

R.I.P.

BIENVENIDO SANTOS YADAO

of Pasig City
March 2, 1926 – December 10, 2004

His bereaved wife **Nena Sumulong Yadao**; children **Raul & Trelly, Babette & Derick, Chuchi, Pinggoy & Marlyn**; grandchildren **O.J., Chris & David**; brother **Jose**; sister **Marina**; relatives and friends request the kind readers to say a little prayer in his memory.

Body lies in state at the Chapel of the Assumption, beside the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pasig City.

Interment will be today, December 12, 2004 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery, after the 2:00 P.M. Holy Mass at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
THE CITY OF OLONGAPO
Olongapo City Hall
Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The City of Olongapo is inviting interested parties to qualify and bid for the Olongapo City Public Utilities Department Modernization Build-Operate-Transfer/Private Sector Participation Project ("Project").

The Project will be implemented as a Contract-Add Operate (CAO) scheme under the BOT Law and will comprise (1) the performance of rehabilitation works on the City-owned electric power distribution assets; (2) the planning, financing, design, engineering, construction, installation, testing, and commissioning of new electric power distribution facilities, and (3) the management, operation, repair and maintenance of the integrated distribution system by the winning bidder/project proponent for a concession period of 25 years. The upgraded and rehabilitated power distribution system including all new facilities shall be transferred to the City, at no cost, at the end of said period.

The competitive bidding for the Project will be conducted in accordance with the procurement guidelines of the BOT Law (Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The bidding will follow the rules prescribed for the Simultaneous Qualification of Bidders or the Three Envelope System, as defined in the IRR.

The Tender Documents (consisting of the Information Memorandum, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Forms and Draft Agreement) may be obtained from the Public Utilities Department, Olongapo City Hall, Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City, starting on *December 15, 2004* up to *January 10, 2005* upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos *(Php 50,000)*. Only those who purchased the Tender Documents will be qualified to submit bids or proposals.

Bidders are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on *January 21, 2005*.

The deadline for the submission of bids or proposals is on *March 31, 2005*.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the City.

The City also assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their bids or proposals.

(Sgd.) MANUEL QUIJANO
Chairman - Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Dec. 12, 19 & 26, 2004)

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING BETTER

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Presents

THE ULTIMATE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE:

TOTAL QUALITY DRIVEN SELLING

The MOST EXPLOSIVE SALES EVENT of Year 2005 that will lead to your company's Massive Growth and Total Market Domination!!!

Applying the Revolutionary 'Quality-Driven' principles to every phase of selling will make your company much more powerful in its commitment to being the best, producing the best, resulting in your BEST Sales Performance ever!

Kick-Start the year right... Mark your calendar for you and your Sales Team:
Monday, January 31, 2005 (8:30 am- 5:30 pm)

With "Total Quality DRIVEN Selling" your salespeople will close more business and get closer to prospects and customers in ways far superior to your competition.

RATES PER SEAT:

- Super Value Rate: P1, 999 Starting today; *strictly* until December 17, 2004 only
- Early Bird Rate: P2, 699 Starting December 18, 2004; *strictly* until January 14, 2005 only
- Regular Rate: P2, 999/seat Starting January 15, 2005

Total Quality DRIVEN Selling requires a high degree of 'team effort'. With the competition becoming ever stiffer, everything and everyone in your team counts!

Required No. of Participants	Discounted Rate/seat	Actual Savings	Promo Duration
10	P1,899.00	P1,000.00	Until December 17, 2004
18	P1,799.00	P3,600.00	Until December 17, 2004

REGISTER NOW! Call HARRY'S ANGELS Tel.: 404-2753, 523-1718, 526-1909 Cell No.: 0917-327-7271
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of the following items for use at the NFA Central Office as follows:

Item No.	Equipment	Approved Budget
A. Chemistry Section		
1.	Sample Concentrator with Dry Block Heater	273,000.00
2.	Ultrasonic Cleaner, Long Bed	150,000.00
3.	Muffle Furnace (2 units)	740,000.00
4.	Refrigerated Circulator	165,000.00
5.	Adjustable Volume Pipettor (2 units)	40,000.00
6.	Elisa Reader and Accessories	500,000.00
7.	Electronic Dessiccator with built-in Hygrometer	250,000.00
8.	Top Loading Balance With Accessories	175,000.00
9.	Water Bath	95,000.00
10.	Dessiccators	315,000.00
11.	Test Weight Set	248,000.00
12.	Air Oven	270,000.00
B. Microbiology Section		
13.	pH Meter for Microbiology Section	250,000.00
14.	Compact Panel Mount Thermohygrometers (3 units)	52,500.00
15.	Laboratory Cart (2 units)	100,000.00
16.	Dispensette (4 units)	100,000.00
17.	Pipette Jars (3 units)	30,000.00
18.	Pipette Washer	25,000.00
19.	Chlorine Test Kits	35,000.00
20.	Hepa Filters for Clean Bench (13 units)	260,000.00
21.	NIST – Traceable Thermometer, -1°C to 101°C	20,000.00
22.	Pipettor (2 units)	96,000.00
23.	Anaerobic Jars	250,000.00
C. Quality Control		
24.	Thermometer Reader with Penetration Probes (3 units)	60,000.00
25.	Chlorine Test Kit with DPD reagent tablet	25,000.00
D. Physical and Sensory		
26.	Electronic Laboratory Top Loading Balance	100,000.00
27.	Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder (1 unit) or Meter with Penetration Probes (2 units)	35,000.00 60,000.00
28.	Metrological Weight Set	80,000.00
E. Technology Development Division		
29.	Analytical Weights, Class E2	240,000.00
30.	Standard Weights, Class F1	100,000.00
31.	Top Loading Balance	100,000.00
F. Shelf-Life Testing		
32.	Glass Dessicator (2 units)	92,000.00
G. Thermal Process		
33.	ASTM Glass Thermometer	35,000.00
H. Package Testing Section		
34.	Glass Dessicator	180,000.00
35.	Vacuum Pump with Vacuum	50,000.00
36.	Dessiccator Cabinet	65,000.00
I. Engineering Division		
37.	Ice Maker for Ice Cubes	430,000.00
38.	Ice Maker for Flake Ice	350,000.00
39.	Automatic Hand Washer	581,000.00
J. Microanalytical Section		
40.	Vacuum Pump	50,000.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

December 12 to 29, 2004	Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent
January 4, 2005 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom
January 18, 2005 (9:00-9:45 AM)	Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA Submission of eligibility documents and bid proposals
(10:00 AM)	Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last five (5) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor Tengsico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of P5,000.00, non-refundable fee. The Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than the close of business hours of December 28, 2004. Bids for any or all lots should conform with the Bidder's Letter of Intent. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Jose D. Chua at Tel. No. 712-6813 (direct line) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8923.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI – December 12 & 19, 2004)

DBP to mobilize funds for energy projects

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will step up its efforts in support of the energy sector, including the mobilization of funds for investments in power projects.

"We have today around P50 billion in available funds that may be directed to the power sector. We are mobilizing a major part of this for energy projects. We have financing programs for power generation, which covers new and renewable energy (NRE) technologies, transmission and distribution," DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David said before various investors and stakeholders during an Energy Investment Forum held last Dec. 3 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

David added that the bank already has P5 billion for various energy projects in the pipeline. Among these are non-renewable energy projects such as mini-hydro, biogas facilities, co-generation, and geothermal plant expansion in Bohol, Romblon, Rizal, Pampanga, Isabela and Negros Oriental.

The bank has also approved the rehabilitation of a power distribution system in Subic, and a substation in Negros Occidental, while projects such as solar heating systems, and the interconnection and uprating projects in the Visayas - the Cebu to Leyte and the Negros to Cebu interconnections - are currently under evaluation. Other energy programs being supported by the bank are those that promote efficient lighting initiatives and the use of alternative transport fuel such as compressed natural gas (CNG).

President David said that the bank's initiatives are in response to the increasing demand for power which is expected to escalate within the next three years. "With this in mind, we should now tap into the market of mainstream private investors to ensure that we avoid any outages that will occur with the actual demand and supply of power within sometime 2008 and 2009," he noted.

He also cited the bank's partnership with the Department of Energy (DoE) and concerned government agencies in promoting the provision of adequate, affordable, and reliable energy services to improve the quality of life in the countryside.

President David, however, emphasized that the bank shall also consider the viability of projects in evaluating energy initiatives. "While we, as a bank, would generally have the imperative of collaterals, we are increasingly looking more at the proponent's cash flows and track record as that gives the bank an insight as to the proponent's commitment and sincerity. We want to ensure that they have a meaningful and substantive stake in the project to ensure that they are as committed to the project's success as we are," he explained.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg # 6, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz,
Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 Local 1625/1627
E-Mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

8 December 2004

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(REBID) SECURITY SERVICES
IFB No. 2004-12-27 (29)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the appropriation provided under the DOH budget (RA No. 9206) intends to apply the sum of approximately *Nineteen Million One Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Philippine Pesos (PhP 19,157,280.00)*, to provide **(REBID) SECURITY SERVICES** to the DOH Central Office for the CY 2005.
2. The Department of Health not invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders, who are qualified to participate for the said services.
3. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance with eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184. *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) equity belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, only this Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
4. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the Procurement Division, 2/F, Bldg. No. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila Telephone No. 741-9775 (DL) and Trunkline 743-8301 Locals 1625 to 1626, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from **December 15 to 23, 2004,** upon submission of a written application to the following address:

   ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
   Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz,
   Manila

   and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Thousand Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PhP 8,500.00). Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis.
5. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties, on **December 21, 2004** at 1:30 p.m., at the Procurement Division (PD) Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. No. 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
6. Bids must be delivered not later than 9:00 a.m. on **December 27, 2004**, at the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Conference Room, G/F, Bldg. No. 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:

   a) Cash, Certified/Cashier's or Manager's Check, Bank Draft — One Percent (1%)
   b) Bank Guarantee — One & a Half Percent (1-1/2%)
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Dec. 12 & 19, 2004)

NDD na titigil ang kwentuhan

NDD na magmamadali magsalita

NDD na mahuhuli sa balita

NDD na magdadagdag ng P200

NDD ka na kailangan mag-apply

NDD ka na mag susubscribe sa iba

NDD ka na magbabayad

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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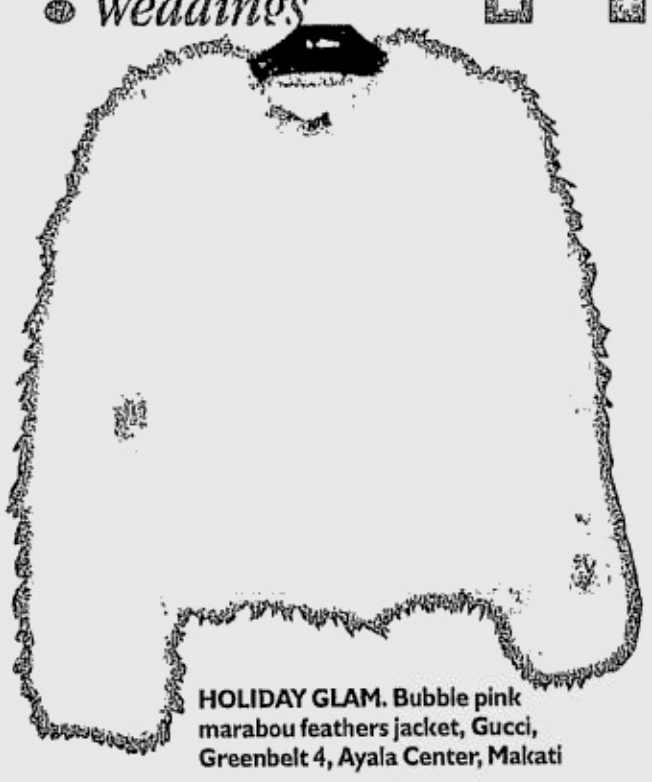
1869 P. Domingo Street, Makati City



HOLIDAY GLAM. Bubble pink marabou feathers jacket, Gucci, Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati

CHRISTMAS 2004. Gift guide for spenders big and small

YVES Saint Laurent "Mombasa" hobo in amaranto buffalo leather, YSL, Greenbelt 4

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DISCOVER Eastern Samar /J1

PETAL pushers /L1

EYE CANDY

(Top) Picnic sunglasses with polychrome sunflowers and Swarovski designs, Salvatore Ferragamo; (left) DKNY sunglasses, and DKNY and YSL (below) face hugging sunglasses, YSL. All at Greenbelt 4

Music to your ears

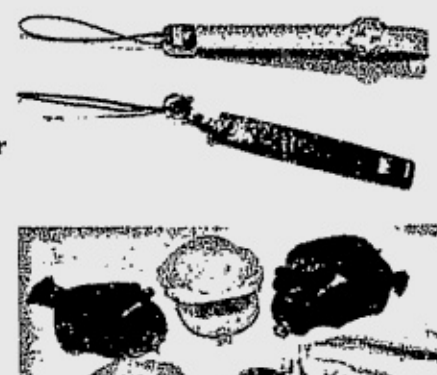
SPECIAL edition U2 iPod holds up to 5,000 songs and features black enclosure with a red Click Wheel plus custom engraving of US band member signatures. Available in 40GB or 60GB. Locally distributed by Microwarehouse, Inc.,4 United St., Kapitolyo, Pasig City, tel. 6370474

CHIC CASING for your iPod, just one of 300 accessories designed for the hottest gift this season, available at Gucci, Greenbelt 4.

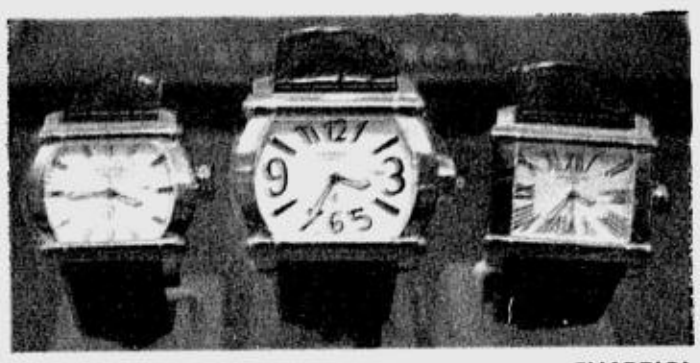
PHOTOS TO GO. Now you can load 25,000 digital photos or 10,000 songs, or a combination thereof in Apple's newest baby, the iPod Photo.

CHRISTMAS 2004 Gift guide for spenders big and small

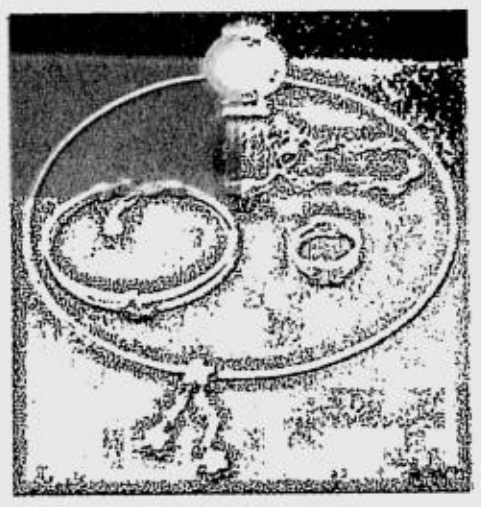
Here's a Santa's listing of the many delightful luxuries out there that can make Christmas merry and bright for your loved ones. Presents perfect sure to endear you to one and all. There's no skipping Christmas so you might as well enjoy the time you save by picking from these pages. Oh, go ahead, bask in the glory of having chosen the season's best



CELLPHONE straps in two lengths in red, green, black leather or leather trim, from Gucci



CHARRIOL "Actor" watch



STERLING silver "Flower" collection from Charriol, at Greenbelt 4

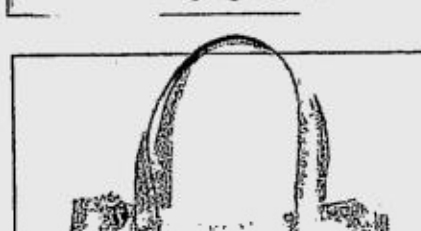
PLEATED chocolate brown skirt, DKNY at Greenbelt 4

THE CANON PowerShot A75 can capture your memorable moments, with 3x optical zoom lens, 1.8" color LCD with up to 10x playback zoom lens and advanced TTL AiAF 9-point autofocus system.

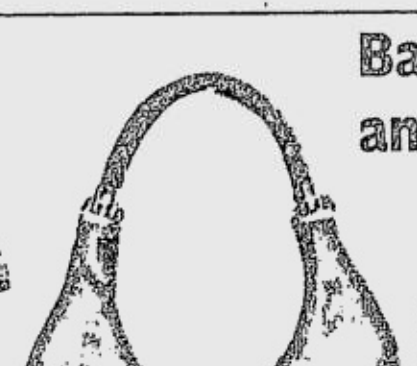
LEATHER MENAGERIE. Turtle and fish coin purses in red, coral, blue and brown, from Bottega Veneta, Greenbelt 4

HIGH-TECH TV. Philips Pixel Plus 2 with Ambilight that analyzes incoming signals and produces background lighting that complements and improves the image on screen

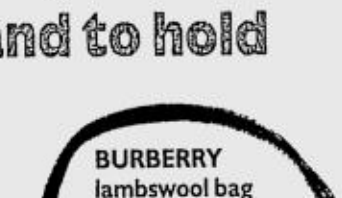
Bags to have and to hold



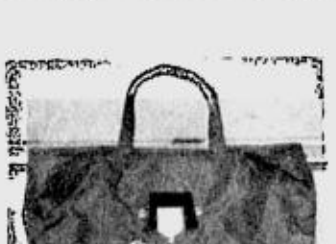
TOD'S candy bag in pink patent



YSL Mandarin hobo

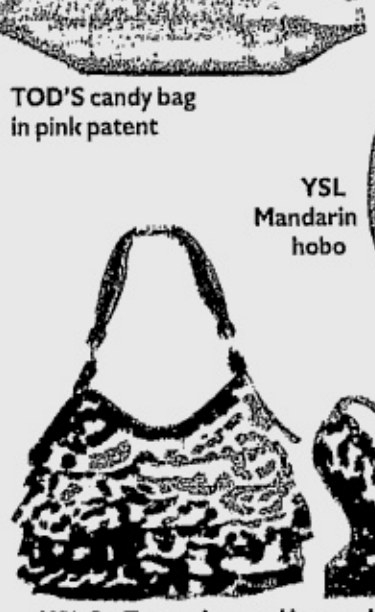


BURBERRY lambswool bag



ROBOT bag in burgundy fabric from Prada, Greenbelt 4

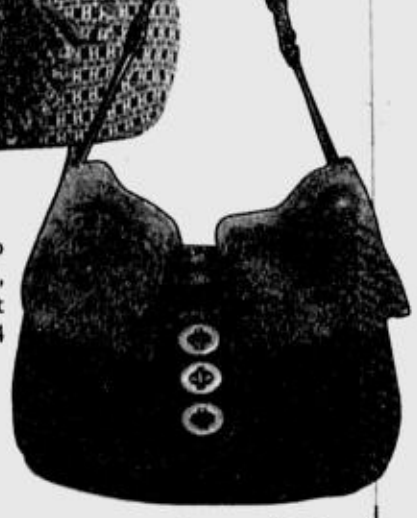
TWEED pink flower handbag, DKNY at Greenbelt 4



YSL St. Tropez leopard bag and retro shoes

ENZO Angiolini "Marrakesh" backpack in cashew

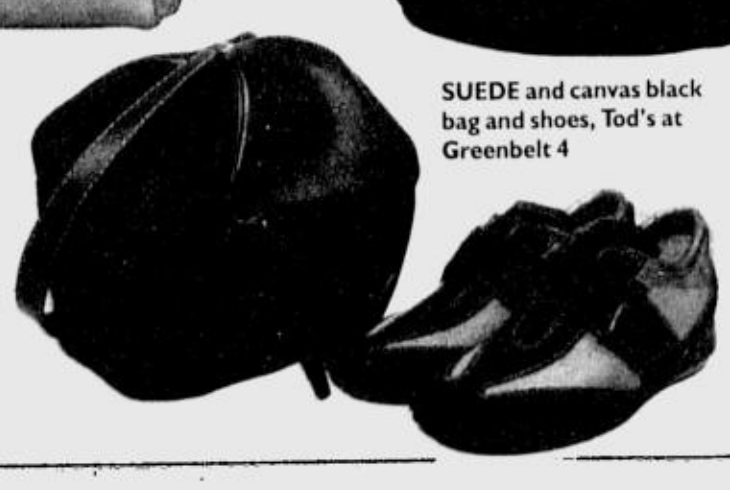
SATCHEL from Enzo Angiolini, L2 Greenbelt 4.



QUILTED hobo with fur accent, Coach at Greenbelt 4

CANVAS totes with assorted handle colors, Kate Spade in Greenbelt 4

FABRIC bag with generous outer pockets, Bally at Greenbelt 4



SUEDE and canvas black bag and shoes, Tod's at Greenbelt 4

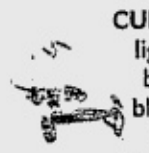
Gift guide for spenders big and small

Man at his best

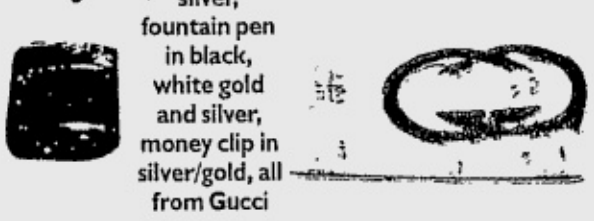
MEN's wallets, from Gucci

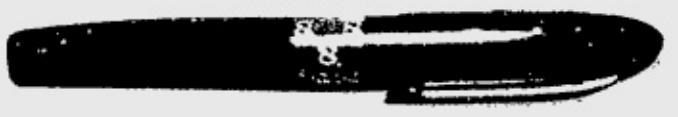
SILK ties, from Gucci

TOILETRIES bags in black or sughero, from Salvatore Ferragamo, Greenbelt 4

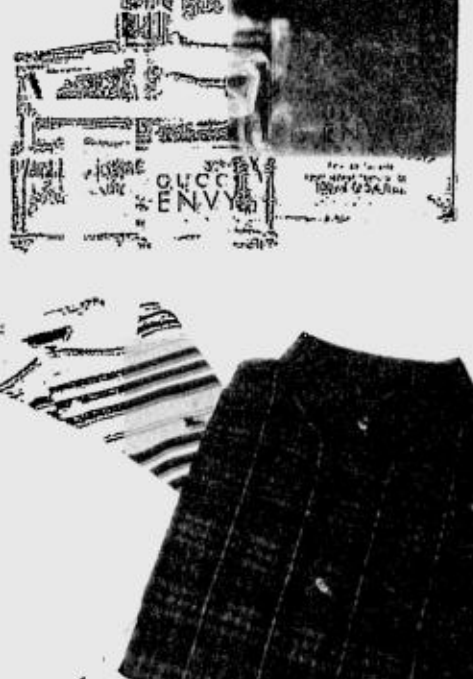


CUFFLINKS, lighter in beaded black and silver, fountain pen in black, white gold and silver, money clip in silver/gold, all from Gucci

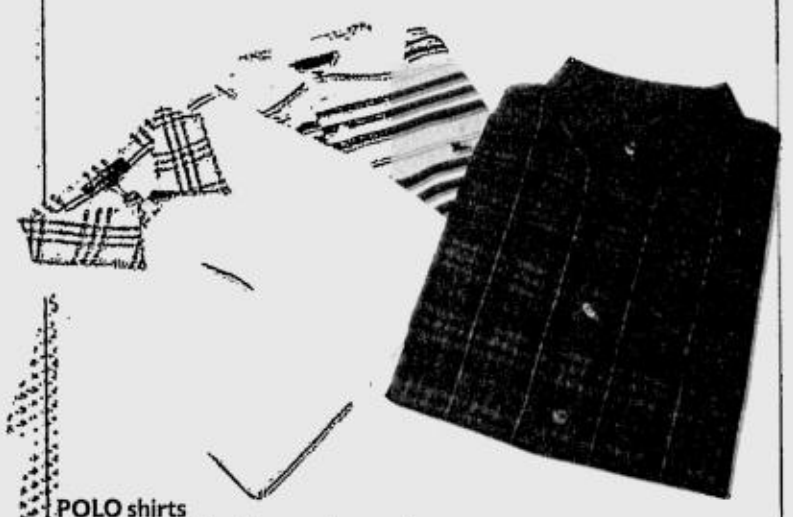




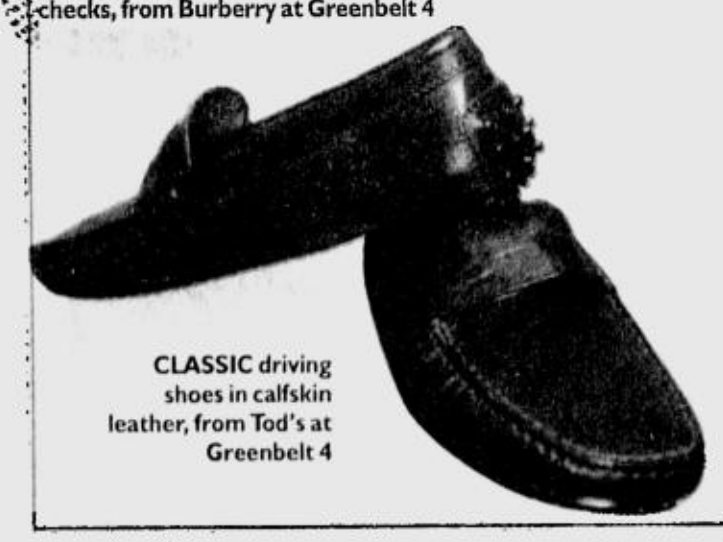
BROM brass shoe horn comes with calf leather case, from Salvatore Ferragamo



THE VERSION for homme, Gucci Envy

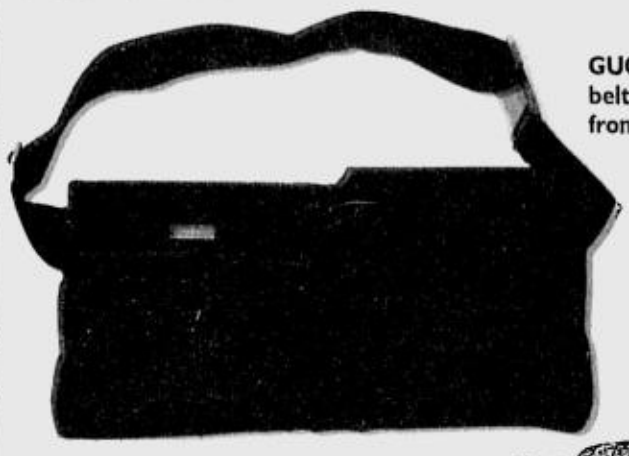


POLO shirts for men in plain white, stripes and checks, from Burberry at Greenbelt 4



CLASSIC driving shoes in calfskin leather, from Tod's at Greenbelt 4

For the seasoned traveler



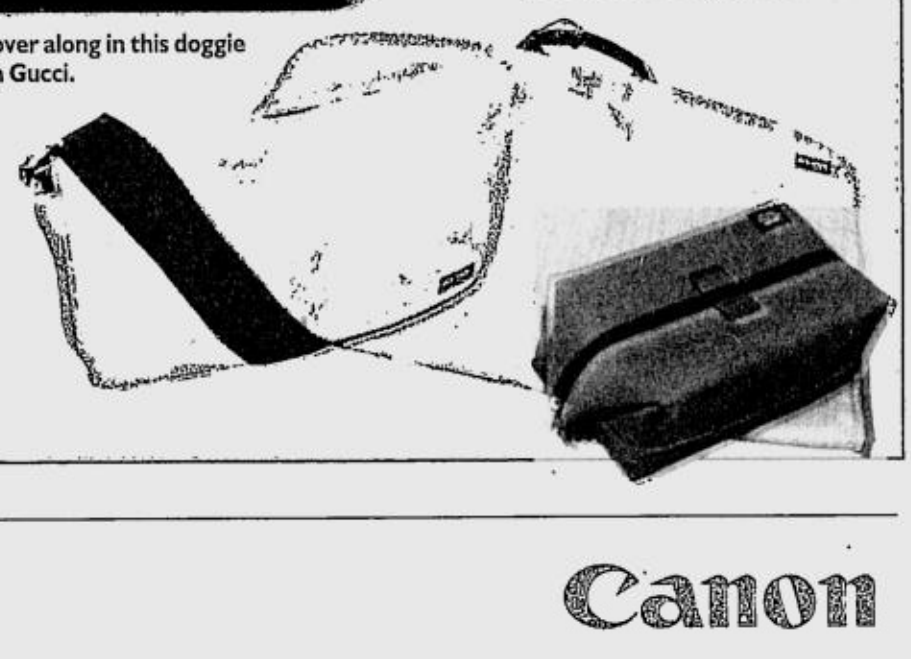
GUCCI black beltbag with ample front pockets

GUCCI beltbag in black GG fabric

JACK Spade canvas blue day bag, grey glen check suit bag and locket kit

BOTTEGA Veneta messenger bag

TAKE Rover along in this doggie bag from Gucci.



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Celebrating the Gifted Children who beat the World

For years they have continued to impress the nation with their excellence in science, math, music, sports and the arts. They are our gifted children – young talents so exceptional that local experts foresee them to be our nation's next heroes, leaders, scientists, national artists, and Olympic champions.

The signs are certainly there, for these child prodigies have competed against some of the best in the world -- and triumphed.

"Ang galing talaga ng Pilipino!"

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

I join **Wyeth Philippines** and the **Philippine Association for the Gifted** in celebrating the *National Week for the Gifted.*

This event pays tribute to our youth who have triumphed globally. They are our new heroes, the pride of our nation. I thank the parents of these children for selflessly sharing your child's talents, for allowing and encouraging them to participate in global competitions. I commend you for the sacrifices and dedication you have made in nurturing their special gifts.

The gifted and talented constitute the most important human resource of a nation. From their ranks shall rise our future statesmen, national artists and even our next President.

In recognition of our children's vast potential, our administration is doing its utmost to provide the much needed opportunities for their fullest development. Our ongoing reforms in education, particularly in expanding the reach of early childhood education and in providing more textbooks and classrooms, aim to develop the gifts of children especially those from poor families.

I wish the successful celebration of the National Week for the Gifted. I congratulate our young achievers for the recognition that they have earned. With your every accolade, you have made your country truly proud.

Salamat sa inyong nakikita ng buong mundo, ang galing talaga ng Pilipino! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

The Gifted Children who beat the World

In recent years, a number of Filipino gifted children have brought honor to our country: 16-year old science whiz, Joy Anne Aquino, 16-year old robotics designer, Adrian Owyong, 16-year old math whiz, Jose Ramon "Joby" Batiller, 11-year old young chess master, Wesley So, 10-year old chess champion, Cheradee Camacho, and 12-year old multi-awarded actor, Jiro Manio.

Gifted Child Joy Anne Aquino

Joy Anne's skills in scientific research came to fore when she joined the 55th International Science and Engineering Fair in Oregon. In this prestigious science tilt, Joy Anne bagged first place honors for her remarkable study. Her extensive research revealed that the venom of sea snakes could be a possible cure for various infectious diseases.

Gifted Child Adrian Owyong

Adrian was a member of the National Champion Team Robotics that represented the country in the International Robotics Olympiad Competition held in Beijing, China. He and his team won for the country the silver medal in the Line Tracing Category for the amazing 2-legged robot they designed.

Gifted Young Achiever Joby Batiller

Joby has been a consistent winner at local and international math competitions. He has bagged more than 60 awards. His most memorable awards include top honors at the China National Junior High School Math Olympiad and the coveted Westpac medal at the 2003 Australian Mathematics Competition.

Gifted Child Wesley So

Wesley is now one of Asia's youngest masters in chess. In the 5th ASEAN Age Group Championships in Vietnam, Wesley bagged 2 golds in the Individual Standard Chess Boys Under 12 and the Rapid Chess Boys Under 12 competitions. He now has a total of 21 local and international chess titles.

Gifted Child Cheradee Camacho

In a field that has long been dominated by men, one little girl has been making waves.Cheradee is the first Filipina ASEAN Chess Grand Winner. For winning the coveted gold medal in the under-8 category, she rightfully earned the title "Wonder Girl of Philippine Chess". Chess geniuses foresee Cheradee to become the next National Grandmaster.

Gifted Child Jiro Manio

It is not uncommon for veteran actors to get the "best actor" nod from award giving bodies. What is rare, is for a child to receive this recognition. Jiro is our country's youngest best actor. FAMAS, Star Awards, PASADO, Urian, Gawad Tanglaw and FAP Awards unanimously voted Jiro as best actor for his performance in a multi-awarded film. He now has a total of 12 acting awards, as well as a nomination at the Karlovy Film Festival of the Czech Republic.

The 5th National Week for the Gifted

This year's National Week for the Gifted (November 20-28, 2004) celebrated the Filipino gifted children who emerged victorious in international competitions. The celebration's theme was The ProGifted Filipinos who beat the World.

Highlights of the celebration included 2-day long mall tours at Glorietta 2, Makati and SM Cebu. Filipino Gifted Children treated mall spectators to impressive performances.

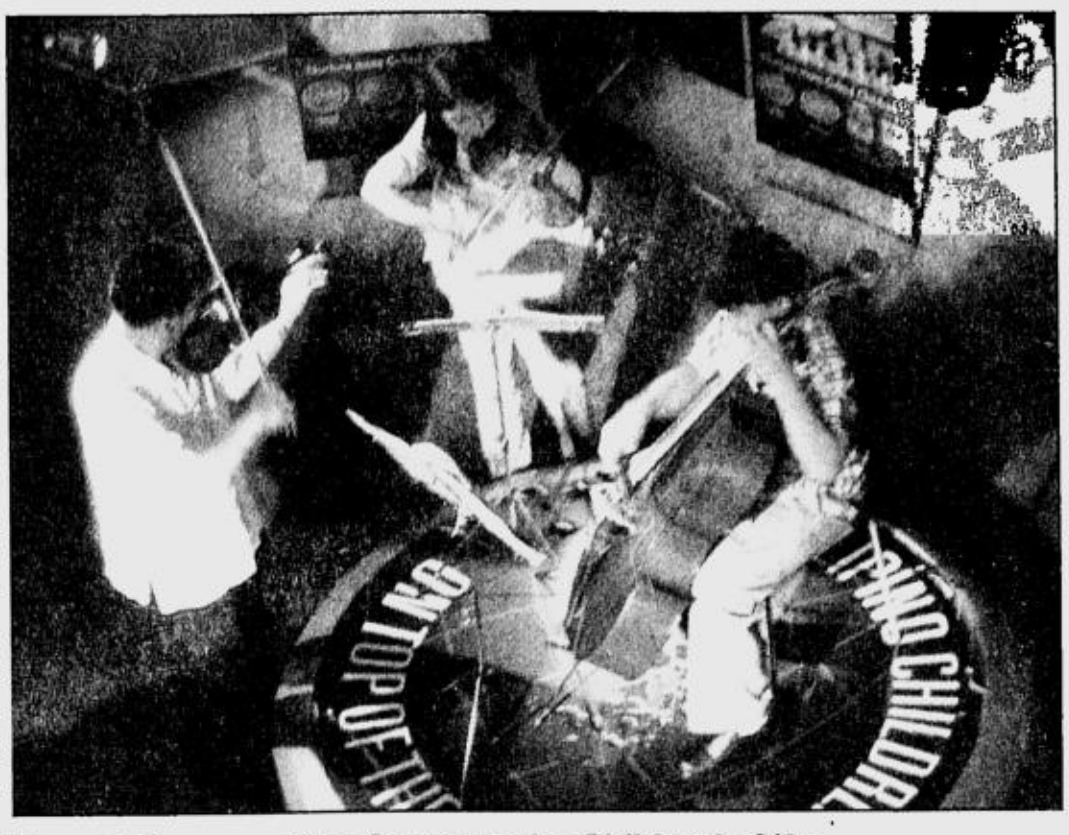
Seventeen-year-old world-class pianist Bryan Sapigao, 11-year old classical cellist Pocholo Gutierrez, 12-year old violin virtuoso Paulina Gutierrez and world-renowned violinist Alphonso "Coke" Bolipata serenaded the Glorietta 2 crowd. In SM Cebu, the audience was treated to a showdown by 16-year old gifted saxophonist Jacob Sarreal and extraordinary saxophonist, Mr. Eddie Katindig.

In both venues, Glorietta 2 and SM Cebu, 17-year old gifted artist CJ de Silva wowed the crowds with her trademark "Mother and Child" masterpieces. In less than an hour, Gifted CJ and her mentor, exceptional artist Mr. Al Perez did on-the-spot renditions of their masterpieces.

It was also very apparent how much former PHIVOLCS director Mr. Raymundo Punongbayan was impressed with young science whiz Joy Anne Aquino's gifts.

Special guestings by Wesley So, Cheradee Camacho, and Adrian Owyong also spiced up the mall tours. The grand celebration of the 5th National Week for the Gifted was staged last November 23, 2004 at the Le Soufflé at The Fort.

World-class Filipino gifted musicians and their adult counterparts entertained the press people and healthcare professionals. Featured in this celebration were Filipino Gifted Children Jacob Sarreal, Pocholo Gutierrez, Paulina Gutierrez, 13-year old concert master violinist Christian Tan, along with their adult counterparts, Mr. Coke Bolipata and Mr. Eddie Katindig.



Gifted artists CJ de Silva and 13-year old painter Ruth Picart impressed the audience with their on-the-spot works. Their mentors, Mr. Al Perez and, Mr. Fernando Sena were also among the special guests of the event.

An audio-visual presentation gave tribute to the Filipino Gifted Children. Another presentation featured interviews of Filipino adult achievers celebrating the "next generation" of achievers. In the presentation were former PHIVOLCS director Mr. Raymundo Punongbayan, mathematician Dr. Simon Chua, chess grandmaster Mr. Eugene Torre, and top filmmaker Maryo J. de los Reyes. To cap that special event were splendid production numbers of Asia's Songbird, Ms. Regine Velasquez with Gifted Musicians, Bryan Sapigao and Jacob Sarreal.

The Secret to the Children's Gifts

Experts agree that behind these children's success is the combination of 3 important factors: parents' good genes, proper care and proper nutrition.

Parents' genes simply provide a starting point. The gift must be supported with the right kind of care. This refers to the exposure of the child to a stimulating environment, the right kind of training, love and support.

Finally, proper nutrition is vital to honing the gift in every child. For many years now, a ProGifted Formula has helped nourish the gift in many Filipino children. This formula contains special nutrients at the right amounts: a balanced ratio of LNA and LA, 5 Nucleotides such as IMP and Natural Mixed Carotenoids which help boost the development of a child's brain.

Support for Gifted Children

The celebration of the National Week for the Gifted seeks to create more awareness about the Filipino Gifted Children. It also encourages the nation to support our country's young heroes.

One of the biggest advocates of giftedness is the Philippine Association for the Gifted. This organization has helped identify the gifted of our country. Once identified, these children and their parents are extended invaluable information on how best to nourish the gift.

Another big advocate of giftedness is Wyeth Philippines. Through the years, it has made milk supplements that help nourish the gift in every Filipino child.

These children are our nation's hope and pride. Let us join the whole nation in helping develop and nurture more Filipino gifted children.

When you see the gift, nurture it.

Your child may show the earliest manifestations of his gift during his pre-school years. Developing his potential at this stage requires your support and proper care.

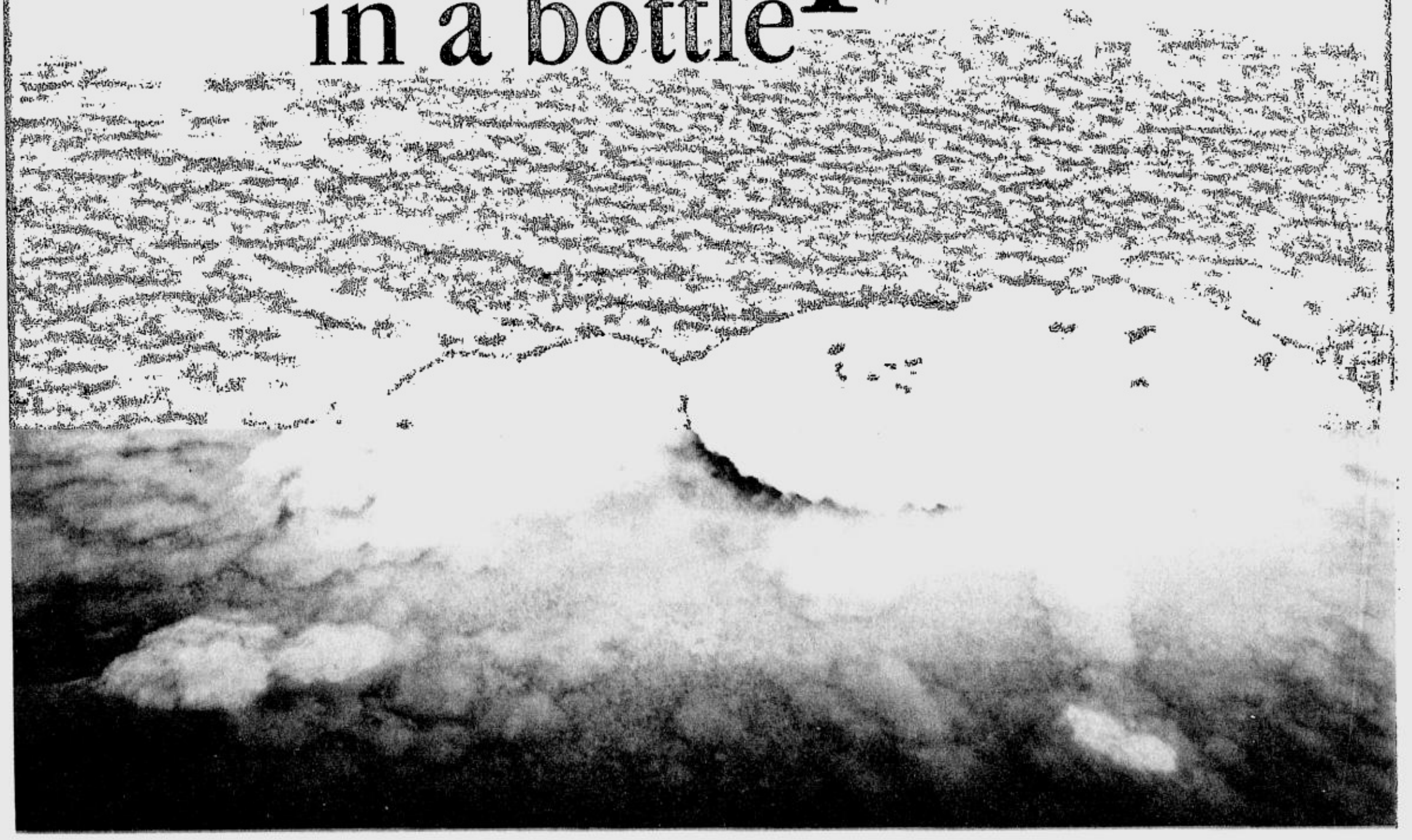
And to help draw out the gift in your child, there's new **Promil Pre-School**.

New **Promil Pre-School** has **ProGifted Formula 4**, a unique blend of essential nutrients that may help spark your child's capacity to imagine, reason and grow. It has **Iron**, which is essential to help support mental development and to help develop visual memory; **Vitamin A** to help enhance eyesight, which is crucial for learning; **Energy-giving nutrients** (Proteins, Carbohydrates and Fats), essential to help promote motor skills development and to help support his increasing energy needs. It also has **Vitamin D** and **Zinc**, which may help support faster learning.

So remember, once you see the gift in your child, nurture it. From 3 years onwards, **Promil Pre-School**.

Nurture the Gift.

Natural spa in a bottle



MIMIC visions of mud-bathed tourists in the Dead Sea in your home

DEAD Sea mud to cleanse the scalp

By Cheche V. Moral

GIVEN the countless therapeutic and cosmetic benefits that are said to come from the Dead Sea, some countries in Northern Europe reportedly consider a trip to the historic lake a necessary medical expense.

With the prohibitive cost of travel, however, most Filipinos can only dream of dipping in the world's largest "natural spa," located between Israel and Jordan, and smacking the Dead Sea's "healing" mud all over their bodies.

Filipinos can only dream—or opt for the next best thing.

"Not many people can go to the Dead Sea, but we can bring the Dead Sea to your home," says Zeev Lebovich, export division manager of L'Oreal Israel.

Lebovich was in the country recently to introduce Natural Sea Beauty, a line of cosmetics created with minerals and natural marine ingredients culled from the Dead Sea. A small but specialized division of L'Oreal Israel has been producing the brand since 1987.

While there are about 60 brands in the world market claiming to have the curative powers of Dead Sea salts and minerals, Natural Sea Beauty differs in that it is formulated using the technology employed by the renowned French cosmetic firm, according to Lebovich.

"The source [of the ingredients] and the technology go together," he stresses.

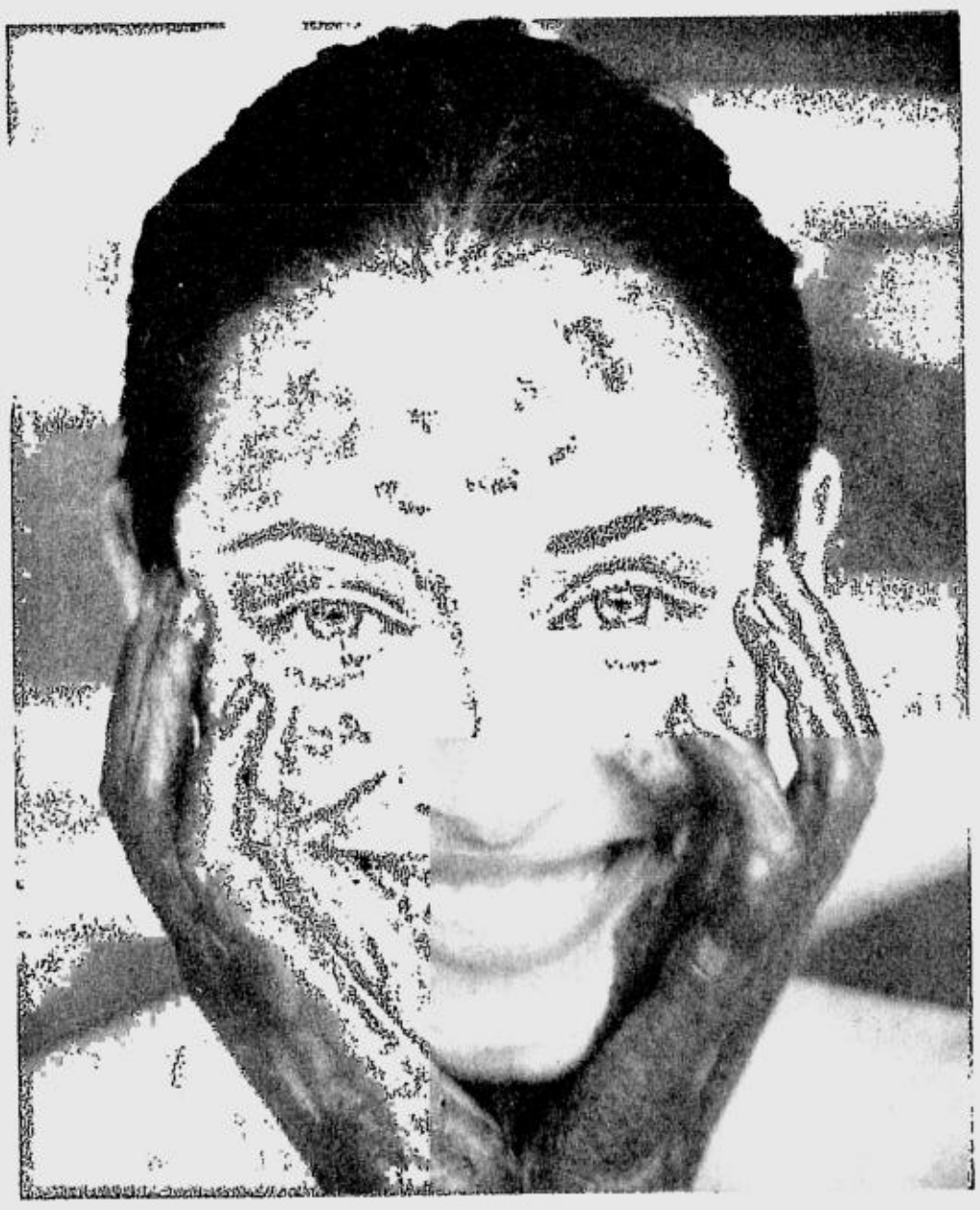
Reputable brand

Dead Sea cosmetics are hardly new to Filipinos. In fact, a similar brand was introduced in the Philippines last year, but for some reason it didn't flourish.

"I don't know the reason for that," says Dori Shani, Natural Sea Beauty's local distributor. All he can say is that Natural Sea Beauty is a reputable brand with a reputable company to back it up. He is confident that the brand won't suffer the same fate as its predecessor.

Seeing the local cosmetic market's potential, it was Shani, an Israeli married to Filipina restaurateur Maritel Nievera, who convinced his compatriot to check out the Philippines as possible distribution point.

GEL-CREAM formula to relax sensitive skin



Natural Sea Beauty is available in 17 countries, and has a considerable market presence in Asian countries like Hong Kong, China, Taiwan.

Shani observed that many high-end cosmetics abound and are doing quite well locally. They're not out to compete with these brands, however. Natural Sea Beauty aims to target a semi-selective market with a mid-market price range. The 23-product line retails from P398 to P900 each, primarily aimed at consumers with a monthly income of P10,000 upwards.

"It's not *masa*," Shani notes, "but it's also not expensive." Watsons is the designated distribution outlet for the drugstore chain's friendly and for-all appeal. Shani also takes pride in the brand's tasteful packaging, which is not daunting even to male consumers.

"We offer the same quality [as high-end brands] but at lower prices," Lebovich adds. This can be a come-on even to consumers who go for expensive brands.

Lebovich says the brand retails significantly lower here than in, say, Hong Kong, where its anti-wrinkle and face creams are said to be highly popular. "We expect local consumers will be buying here for their friends living in Hong Kong," says Shani.

Natural Sea Beauty is a line of cosmetics created with minerals and natural marine ingredients culled from the Dead Sea

MUD mask for the face

Aesthetic benefits

For thousands of years, people have been extolling the virtues of the Dead Sea, both for its mineral-rich mud's therapeutic and beauty-restoring properties. It is widely believed until today that Dead Sea minerals can cure a variety of ailments, including respiratory, heart and skin diseases. It is said that the ancient Roman physician Galen was among those who first promoted the wound-healing powers of the lake's mud and minerals.

The widespread popularity of Dead Sea minerals' aesthetic benefits is, however, attributed to the ancient Egyptian queen, Cleopatra. She evidently knew the lake's cosmetic benefits that, at her behest, her lover Mark Antony conquered the Dead Sea region. Archaeologists have reportedly found evidence of ancient "cosmetic plants" in the area.

Cosmetic companies like L'Oreal Israel are banking on the Dead Sea's age-old natural ingredients, and modern technology at their disposal, to create products that are effective and relevant to today's consumer.

Lebovich says the black mud from the Dead Sea is quite potent in purifying the skin, and is used in several of their products. For sensitive skin types, Natural Sea Beauty uses a gentler alternative ingredient, a mocha-colored mud from the Tiberias mineral hot springs in the Sea of Galilee.

If the by-products of the Dead Sea were good enough for a queen, then maybe they're good enough for the common Filipino, too.

Natural Dead Sea is available at Watsons branches in SM Megamall, SM Makati, The Podium and Daimaru in Megamall, and soon in Watsons SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, Greenbelt 1 and Greenhills Shopping Center

Celebrating the holidays with customer treats

ARANETA Center treats shoppers to a royal Christmas shopping experience with the theme, "The Customer is King."

This Christmas celebration kicked off with the lighting of the 85-ft Christmas Tree near the Red Gate of the Araneta Coliseum, the centerpiece of Araneta Center's holiday celebration.

Complementing Araneta Center's giant Christmas tree is the Belen located in front of Farmer's Market.

The treats continue with the Disney on Ice: Princess Classics. From Dec. 25-Jan. 3, 2005, join Cinderella, Jasmine, Ariel, Bell, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Mulan in an ice-skating extravaganza. Call 9115555.

Or win free Disney on Ice tickets at the Royal Tea Party with Belle and Cinderella happening on Dec. 16, 3 p.m., at the Ali Mall Activity Area and Dec. 18, 3 p.m., at the Farmers Plaza Activity Area.

While shopping and dining at Araneta Center establishments, get the chance to meet and greet princes and princesses as they give away assorted treats to lucky shoppers.

Cap off the shopping experience by having a Royal Family Portrait with members of the whole family. At the Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza Atrium, families can have their photos taken in a royal setting, complete with crowns and scepters.

Then, look forward to a prosperous New Year with the feng-shui planners, free to Araneta Center shoppers for a minimum purchase. These clever planners come with your day-to-day fortune and also let you save a fortune with special discount coupons worth over P1,000.

And to make the holiday shopping season even more enjoyable, Araneta Center is extending mall hours. Until Dec. 23, shop till you drop from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

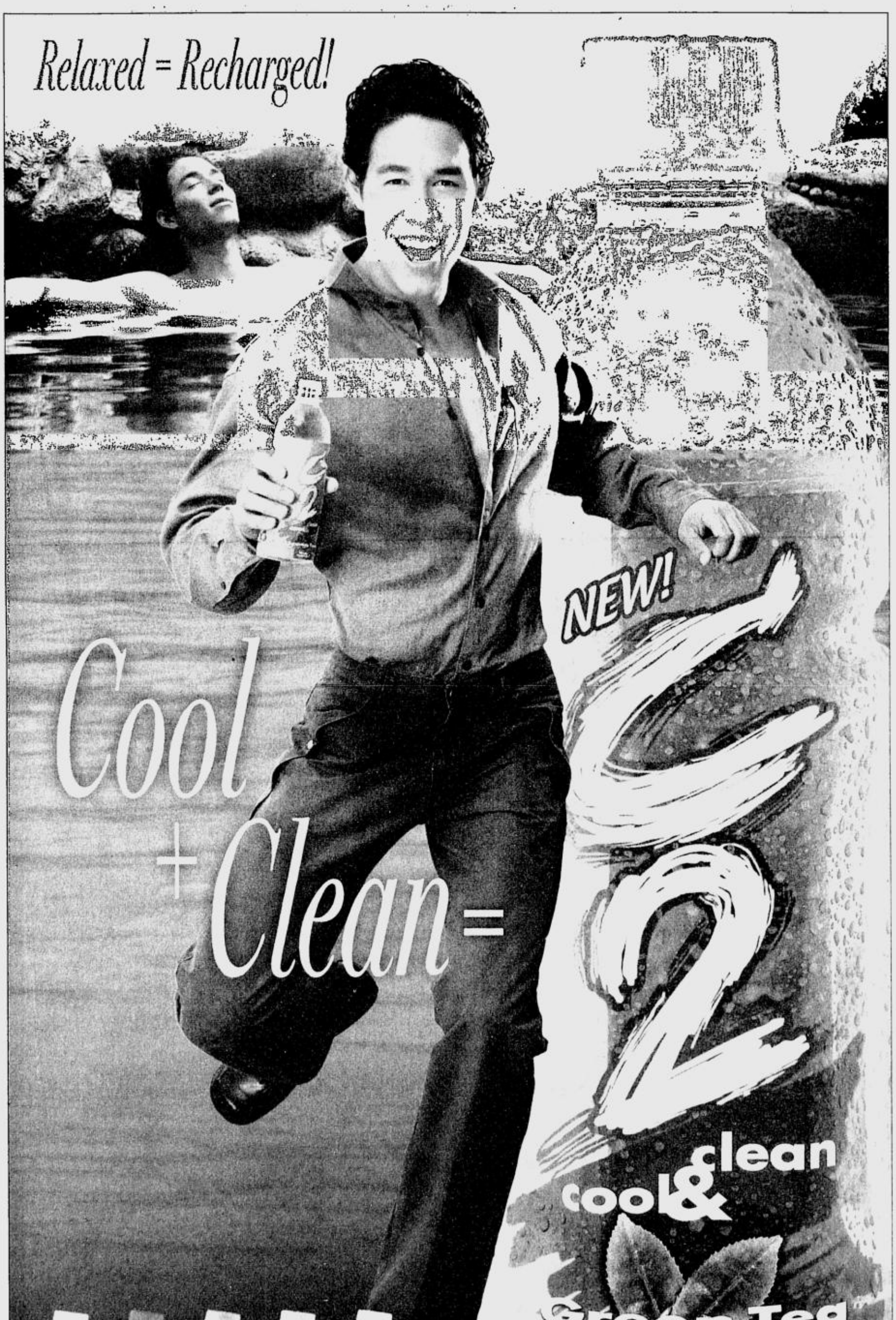
BIG R Supercenter's Christmas shop offers a wide array of holiday decor and ornaments.

One-stop Christmas shop

BEAT the holiday rush by doing your shopping at a one-stop shop that has everything you need to spruce up your home—Big R Supercenter's Christmas Shop.

Big R is a haven for shoppers on the lookout for decorative ideas at affordable prices. It offers a wide range of holiday buntings—Christmas trees of various sizes, colors and materials; Christmas lights, balls, leis, flowers and other knick-knacks; lanterns and holiday novelty items like Nativity figurines, angels and stars.

Big R Supercenter is a supermarket, department store, wet market, hardware store and now a Christmas shop, giving customers great shopping convenience.



C2 Green Tea: It's delicious, it's health-tea!

Everybody drinks iced tea these days. What they don't realize is that most of the time, what they are drinking is more sugar than tea!

The good news is there's a new kind of healthy iced tea available in the market. New C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea, made from delicately brewed natural tea leaves so you not only feel deliciously refreshed, you'll also get all the health benefits of green tea.

Stay fit to a Tea! Green tea's numerous health benefits:

It's an antioxidant! Studies have shown that green tea has many health-giving properties. It is a powerful antioxidant which means it can help protect the body from harmful micro-organisms. Because of this antioxidant property, it is also recognized as a helpful tool in preventing the development of cancer cells.

Helps burn fat! Green tea is also good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight. Green tea has a thermogenic effect that produces heat in the body that results in fat burning. It also initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate.

Controls cholesterol! Green tea thins the blood and decreases the possibility of cholesterol formation inside the blood vessels. Instead of absorbing the cholesterol, green tea prompts the body to increase the amount of fat excreted as waste. This reduces the risks on the heart and blood pressure.

Tea-licious!

Unlike some other things that are healthy, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is actually really delicious. People who are used to softdrinks and sweet juices will surely enjoy its light and refreshing taste. It won't be hard to convert to a habit of drinking something healthier and better for you. Even picky children and teenagers may enjoy C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea's yummy taste.

Spa in a Sip

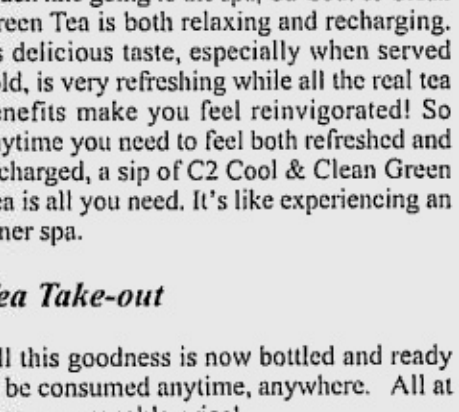
Much like going to the spa, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is both relaxing and recharging. Its delicious taste, especially when served cold, is very refreshing while all the real tea benefits make you feel reinvigorated! So anytime you need to feel both refreshed and recharged, a sip of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is all you need. It's like experiencing an inner spa.

Tea Take-out

All this goodness is now bottled and ready to be consumed anytime, anywhere. All at a very reasonable price!

C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is available in convenient and resealable plastic PET bottles. It comes in five delicious flavors: Green Tea Plain, Lemon, Apple, Peach and Iced Tea Lemon. The suggested retail price of the 350 ml bottle is only P10, while the bigger 500 ml is only P15.

It's now available at your favorite supermarkets and convenience stores. So grab a chilled bottle of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea and enjoy a new kind of healthy refreshment.



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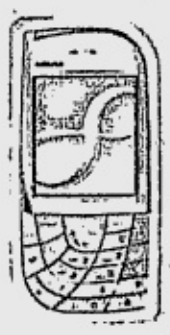

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Promo duration: December 10, 2004 to January 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6026, Series of 2004.

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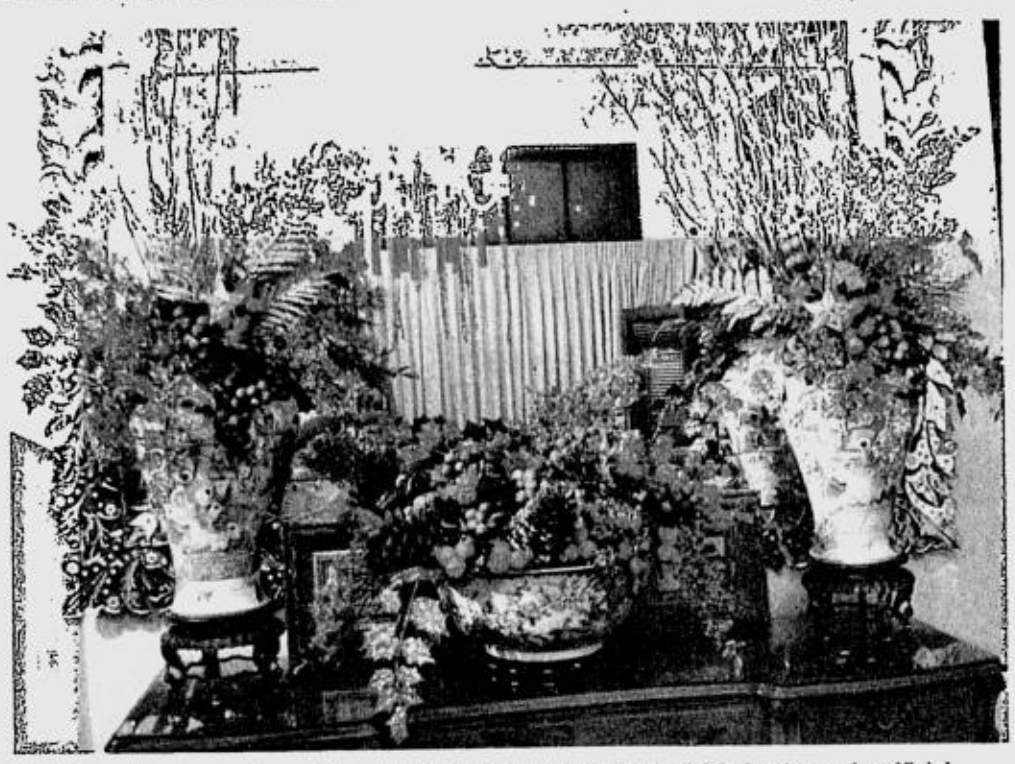


VASES and bowls overflow with colors in these arrangements of dried twigs and artificial leaves and fruits.

'Found' things find place in Christmas 2004

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Roger Carpio

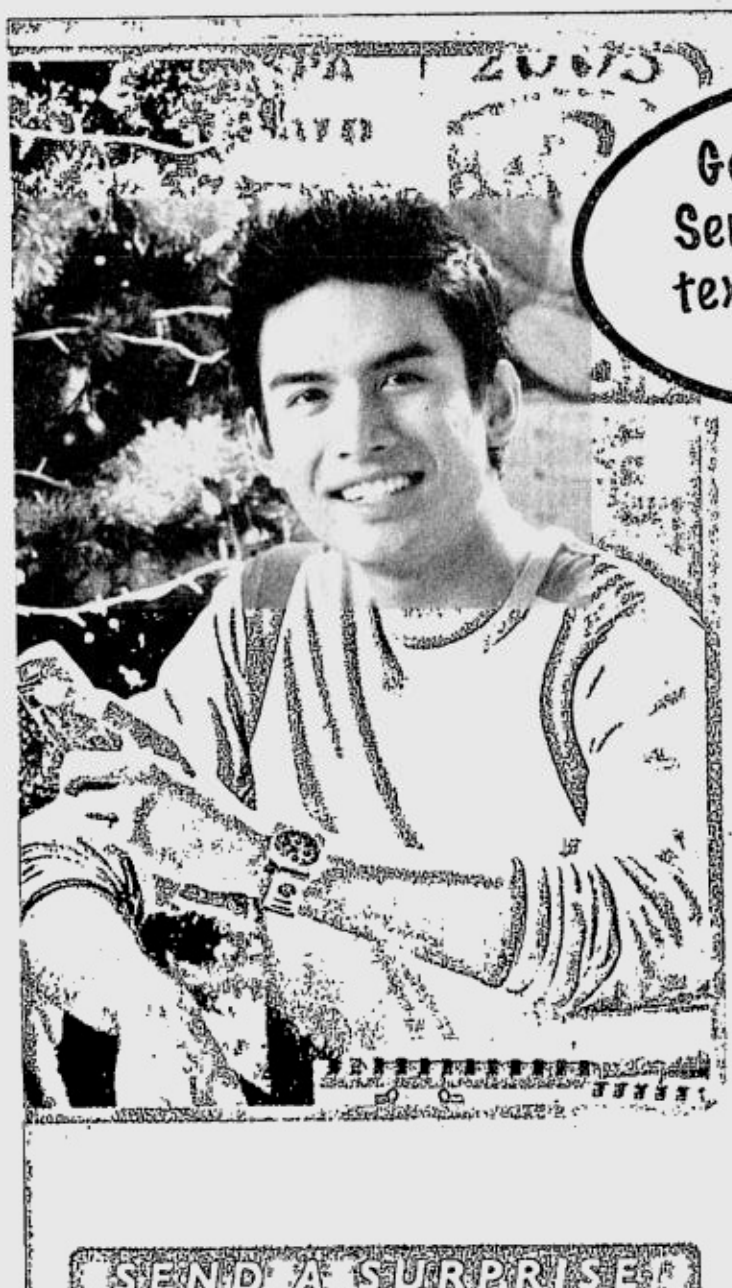
THE MERRY colors of Christmas got reinterpreted at Casa Celestina, the 1930s Ermita home of the maternal grandparents of stylist Rachy Cuna that he had redone recently.

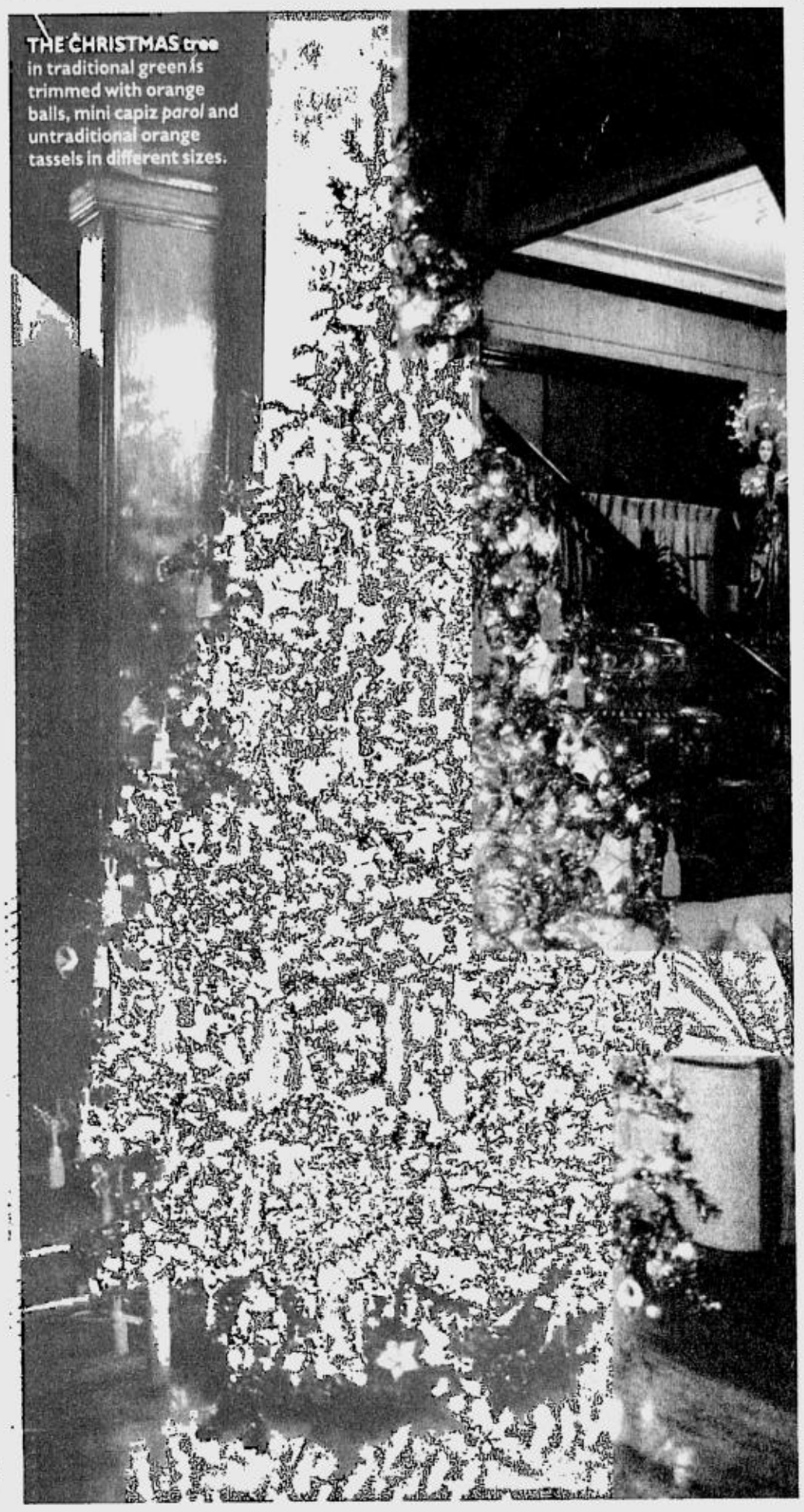
Rather than go for a profusion of the traditional red and green, Cuna opted for tangerine, copper and some dashes of gold.

Tangerine just happened to be the favorite color of his late grandmother after whom the house is named. So what could be more appropriate for the first Christmas of the "new" Casa Celestina than the favorite hue of its late mistress?

'FOUND'/ D2

A COLLECTION of dried twigs, white capiz *parol*, pine cones and tangerine artificial vines at the door is a preview of what's inside.



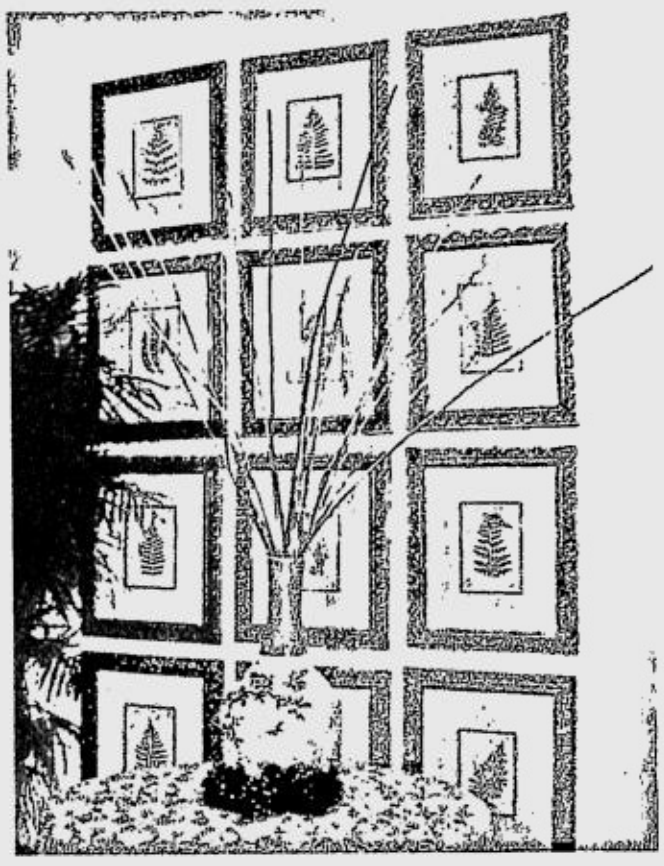


THE CHRISTMAS tree in traditional green is trimmed with orange balls, mini capiz *parol* and untraditional orange tassels in different sizes.

ALL set up for the party days ahead is the dining table with its centerpieces of pine cones, resin vases, flowers and fruits.

'Found' things find place in Christmas 2004

'Mga pulot-pulot' is how stylist Rachy Cuna calls the décor he has used in his grandparents' '50s home



A SIMPLE bunch of dried twigs allow a view of a collection of prints of ferns that gives the dining area its name, Fern Room.

From page D1

While the tree is in traditional green and has the usual Christmas balls—also in tangerine and copper—Cuna, who always finds an opportunity to show and extol the virtues of Filipino-made things, has also trimmed it with miniature *parol* in capiz.

Tangerine tassels of different sizes and lengths, also made by local craftspeople, provide a dramatic contrast.

The coffee-table centerpiece is another arrangement of artificial fruits and leaves with pine cones painted gold. In front of two old-fashioned mirrors with etchings just outside the dining room are arrangements in dry twigs, artificial vines and more miniature capiz *parol*.

In the dining room, known as the Fern Room because of the set of London-made prints that adorn the walls, the wall décor and the centerpiece are replicated. Vase-like resin creations have been added to the arrangements.

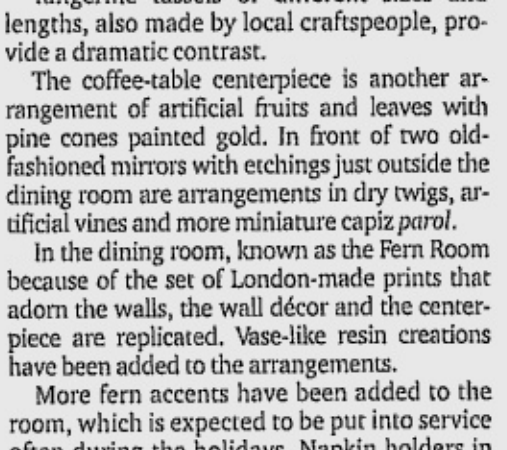
More fern accents have been added to the room, which is expected to be put into service often during the holidays. Napkin holders in gold are designed like ferns and the centerpieces include a gold-dipped stem or two of the plant.

Large tangerine tassels also hang from the chandeliers, with copper vines added to the one in the dining room.

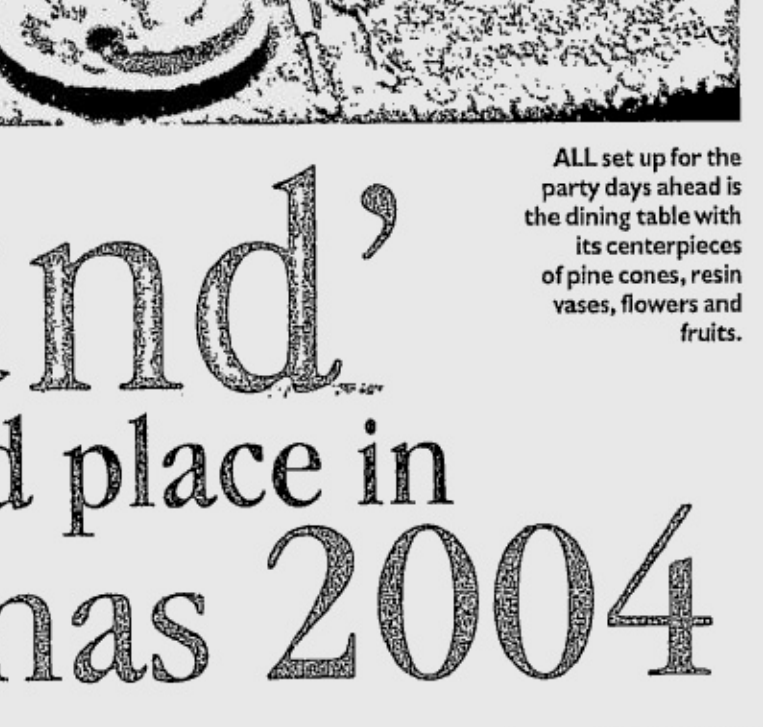
Outside, in the garden, simple white *parol* hang from the trees.

Except for a three-tiered resin candleholder with hearts made by Emy Cuenca, Cuna says Casa Celestina's Christmas décor consists mainly of found things, "*mga pulot-pulot*."

Of course, what he finds and where he finds them are not the same as other people's. And even if they do find them, without Cuna's eye for creative possibilities, they probably would not know what to do with them.



IN KEEPING with the dining room's motif, the napkin holder also has a fern design.



THE DINING room chandelier gets the holiday look with tangerine tassels and gold vines.

THE BUFFET table, while still unused, becomes a showcase of small tangerine jars. An orange-and-gold arrangement of artificial blooms and foliage provides a colorful backdrop.

FAMILY photographs get a festive treatment, too, with this arrangement of dried twigs, mini *parol* and artificial leaves.

Environmental protection remains MGC priority

THE ANNUAL fund-raiser called Festival of Trees (FOT) has always supported environmental and socio-economic projects in areas at risk.

This year, its 10th, it has shifted its focus from the environment to education, concentrating on the needs of schools and schoolchildren in Mindanao.

The array of Christmas trees, artwork and other gift items put on the auction block yearly are, by now, legendary. The trees, in particular, decorated by known artists and designers, are so lovely, they are always sold out.

Credit for the success of this yearly event should go to the two organizations that have worked together for a whole decade—the Makati Garden Club (MGC) and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Proceeds from their annual fundraiser almost always exceed the targeted amount.

Continuing concern

Asked whether their current focus on education will put on hold aid to their old beneficiaries, coastal communities facing ruin because of poverty or neglect, Ching Africa Caluag of MGC says it will not. Since those old projects are ongoing, the physical and financial structures supporting them well in place, many of them are already moving on their own steam.

In the past nine years of cooperative effort, the MGC-PBSP tandem has raised P47.5 million for the rehabilitation of endangered coastal and upland areas in Maqueda Bay, Samar; Olango Island, Cebu; and Ragay Gulf, Quezon—places so far-flung they tend to be overlooked by project proponents.

A report on FOT's environmental projects cites Maqueda Bay as the most consistent beneficiary community in view of its pressing needs. Almost 70 percent of FOT proceeds goes to its rehabilitation. PBSP has even established a Samar Resource Management Program that administers support systematically.

Support for Maqueda Bay does not come from FOT funds alone. MGC and PBSP also ensure the continued growth and environmental protection of the area by partnering with agencies like the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec), Department of Agriculture, Philippine Army and other donors.

SEEING GREEN
Doris Gaskell Nuyda

> The collaboration between the Makati Garden Club and the PBSP proves that business and concerned citizens actually achieve more when they work together

Broad reach

Through such partnerships, MGC and PBSP are able to reach more communities and undertake more projects. To get an idea of FOT's wide reach, the report explains that "about 8,431 households have benefited from the various projects implemented on Maqueda Bay."

This widened area has been provided with the means to diversify crops, initiate aqua culture and alternative livelihood projects that have strengthened their cooperatives. FOT assistance also includes coastal technology, testing and verification of marine species to ensure their replication and production.

As a result, 550 families have recorded increases in their monthly incomes.

Since reforestation must often go hand in hand with coastal rehabilitation, FOT funds have been used to replant 414 hectares of upland forests, an area that comprises 40 percent of the targeted reforestation site. Part of this upland area has been set aside for an agro-forest. This will make it possible for farmers to earn more by combining high value crops with fruit trees.

The latest project being undertaken with FOT funds in Maqueda Bay is a multi-species fish hatchery. This will not only mean continuous fish supply but also reduce the cost of fry for propagation.

MGC and PBSP cooperation proves that business and concerned citizens actually achieve more when they mix. It's a combination as natural as, well, nature. Our ecology supplies us with all the resources needed for us to grow and develop as a people and as a nation. It's only a matter of harnessing these resources in a sustainable way.

Every time we cut trees or catch fish indiscriminately, we are wasting our precious wealth. And we'll never be free of our "fiscal crisis."

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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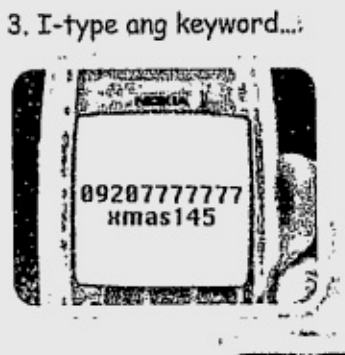

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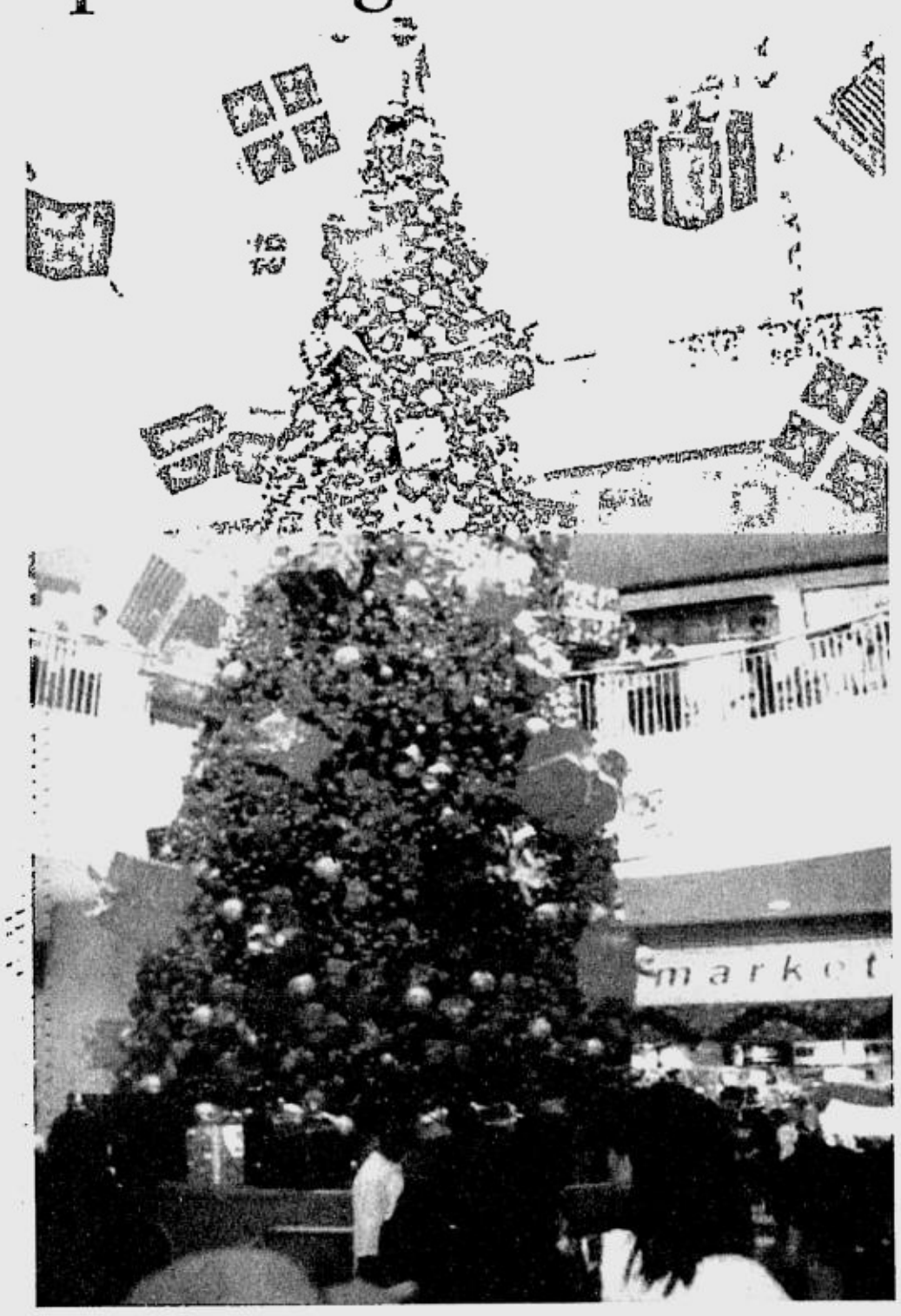
Sparkling Christmas at the malls



CELEBRATING Christmas at the SM Supermalls touches on traditions in different parts of the country.

Featured are Caroling Cheers, where students from different schools serenade mall-goers until Dec. 23; and a Santa Corner, where kids will have a chance to meet and have a souvenir photograph with Jolly Saint Nick. Every photo comes with a token frame from the SM Supermalls.

Not to be missed are holiday festivities from different provinces. SM City Pampanga will once again showcase the Giant Lantern Festival or Ligligan Parol, a grand spectacle of lights and lanterns at the mall's amphitheater on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

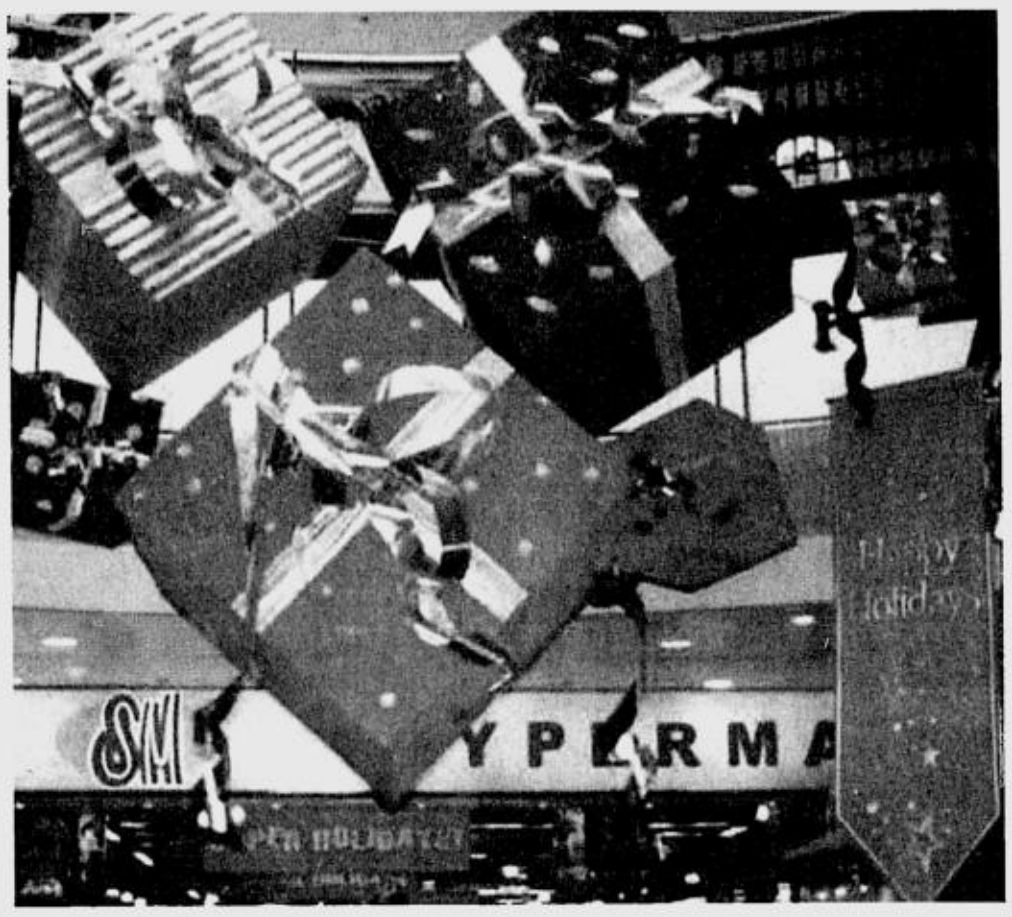
SM City Lucena, on the other hand, will amaze shoppers with the Fiesta de Luces sa Lucena, a localized version of Disneyland's Electric Light Parade. A project of the city government of Lucena, Fiesta de Luces sa Lucena will light up the season on Dec. 18.

Panunuluyan, a traditional Bulakeño reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, will be performed at SM City Marilao on Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. at the mall's Entertainment Plaza.

Christmas creativity comes to the fore with SM City Iloilo's Belen Making Contest and SM City Baguio's Christmas Tree Making Competition.

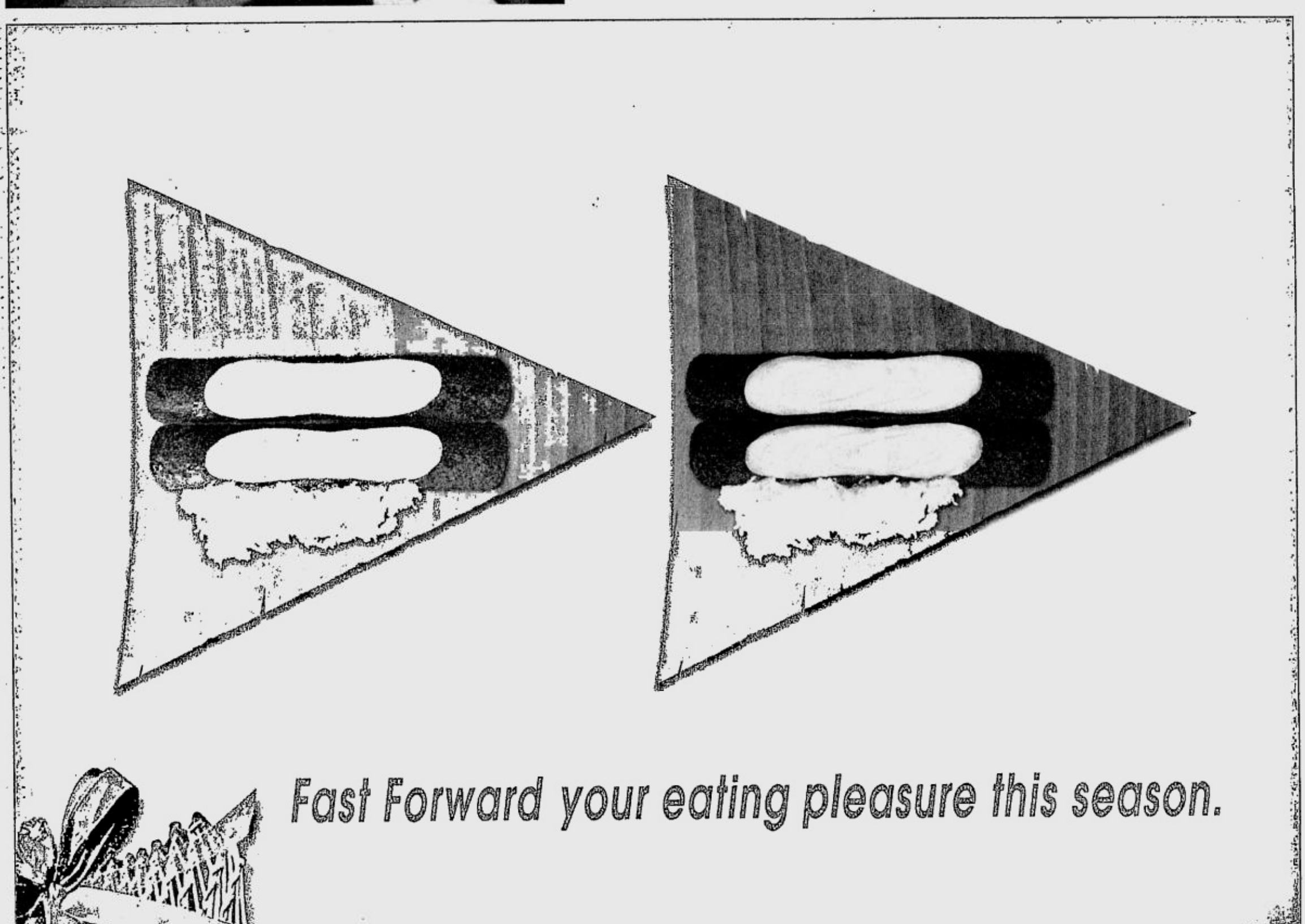
The SM Supermalls will also be holding a Lantern Making Contest. Every P500 minimum purchase entitles one to join in the contest, create a lantern, and have a chance to win prizes: P10,000, first prize; P5,000, second prize; and P3,000, third prize. Lanterns must be 3 feet in width, 3 feet in height, and 3 ft in length, and not over 5 kilos in weight. Deadline for entries is on Dec. 15 at all SM Supermalls, except Pampanga.

Capping the festivities is the Grand Spectacular Fireworks Display, a wonderful play of color and light every weekend until Dec. 30 to celebrate Christmas and welcome the new year.



GIFT boxes are all wrapped with cheers in SM's designs for this year.

FAR left: The giant Christmas trees at the mall bring cheers to shoppers.



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The traditional Pampanga 'parol' has evolved into spectacular shapes and colors of kaleidoscopic splendor

Star of hope and ingenuity

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

A NATIVE of Bgy. Del Pilar, San Fernando, Pampanga, Rolando Quiambao, 49, has been creating lanterns and street décor for 20 years now.

His shop, Rolrens Lantern Products General Merchandise, is now the only booth in Paskuhan Village, Bgy. San Jose, San Fernando, Pampanga, that sells Christmas décor all-year round.

Managed by his wife Renita, Rolrens Lantern Products General Merchandise was put up in 1992. Its factory in San Fernando employs 27 workers. The company starts making lanterns and other holiday accessories in March and takes a rest from January to February.

Each lantern, fashioned from Japanese paper, wood, plastic, metal, capiz shell and other environmentally friendly native materials, is an attractive example of Pampanga folk art.

With the aid of only two workers, Quiambao initially created simple designs, utilizing wires and Japanese paper. Today, the traditional *parol* has evolved into spectacular shapes and colors of kaleidoscopic splendor.

"*Pero mas mahirap gawin yung mga* designs noon. *Mas maraming* cuts. *Ngayon, ididikit na lang ang* patterns," Quiambao says.

Light to the world

Passionate about lanterns since he was 10 years old, Quiambao firmly believes that *parol* makers are "the link between the past and the future." For the artist and his community, which used to win the grand prize of Best Street Décor in San Fernando for four consecutive years, "*Ang parol ng* San Fernando *ay tanglaw ng buong mundo*," he says.

Indeed, for most Filipinos, the Pampanga *parol* has become a generic term for any elaborate star lantern.

Quiambao was last year's grand prize winner in the Lantern Festival, an annual event in San Fernando that continues to attract hordes of spectators from all over the country. The competing giant *parols* become even more dazzling with each passing year.

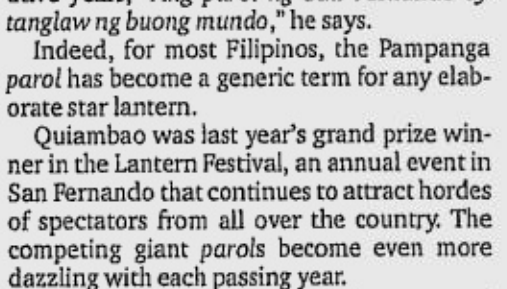
Participants come from the barangays of San Jose, Dolores, Lourdes, Sto. Rosario, Del Pilar, San Pedro, Sto. Niño, Sta. Lucia and San Nicolas.

A book on the lantern's history and how it's made and a lantern museum are now being planned by the town.

"*Plano ng aming* community na *ipakita sa libro* how the lantern evolved from candle to *kalburo* to bamboo, wire, metal and battery. Old pictures and illustrations of lanterns in the very early years will also be included. *Nag-*interview *na nga ako ng mga sinaunang gumagawa ng parol*," Quiambao says.

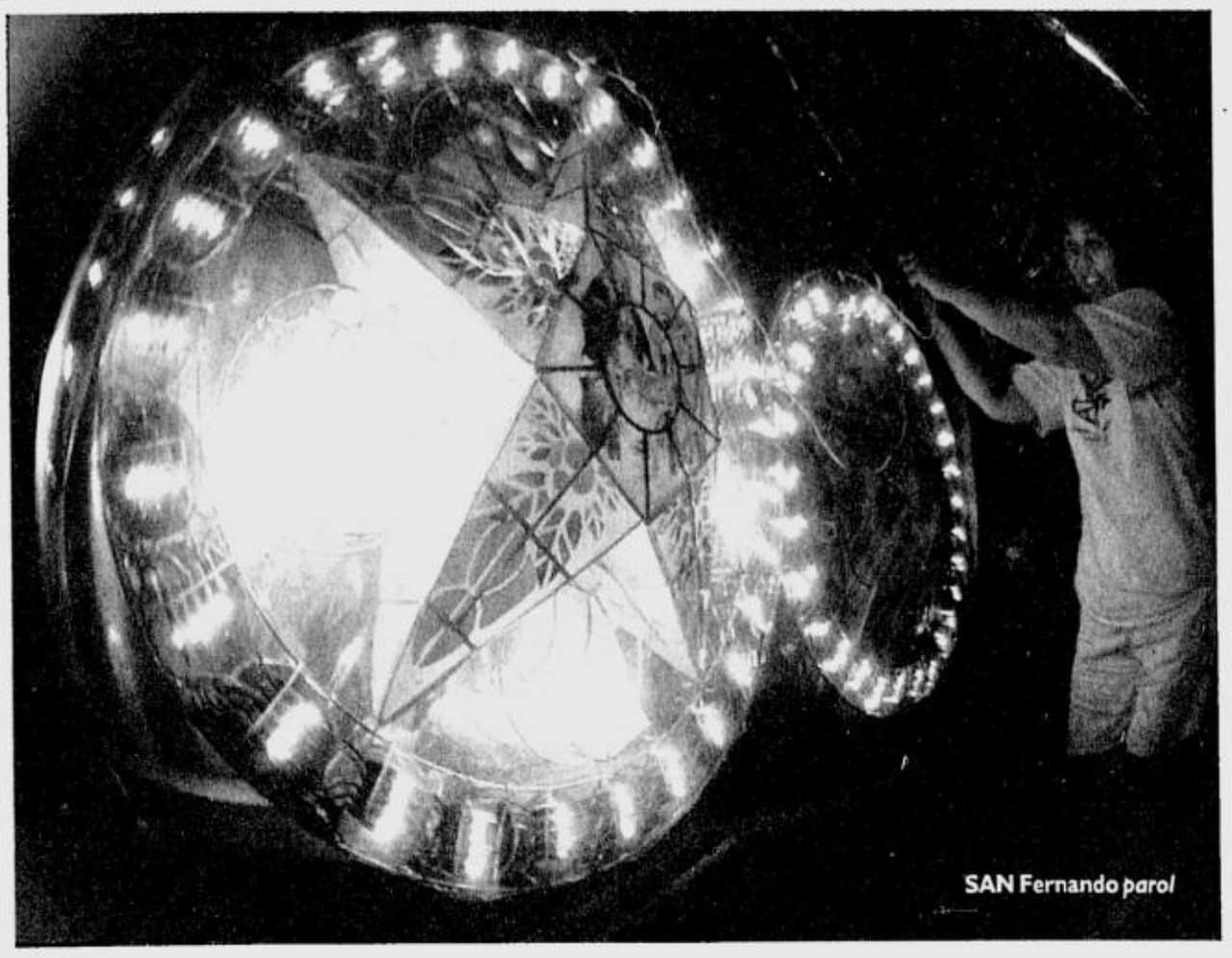
A commerce graduate, Quiambao worked as waiter and band member in Saudi Arabia before coming home and buying a passenger jeepney. But since he could not forget his great love for lanterns, he asked help from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which gave him P5,000 to start his own

STAR/ E2



QUIAMBAO'S lanterns adorn the streets of Paskuhan Village.

PLASTIC flowers and trees are a hit with buyers all year round.


SAN Fernando *parol*

Star of hope and ingenuity

From page E1

QUIAMBAO has introduced floral designs into his giant lanterns.

lantern-making business.

Later, he diversified into street décor and plastic flowers with metal stands and trees with lights.

A set of three flowers costs P1,000. Big Christmas lanterns are sold at P600-P2,000. The more affordable ones cost P15, P25, P65 and P100. The wholesale price of 20 small plastic lanterns is P350. Retail price is P500.

Designing jobs

The Quiambaos' recent clients include Pagcor, which bought 300 lanterns at P1,000 each; the University of Santo Tomas, which purchased 8-ft welded lanterns at P15,000 each; and a Filipino community in Dubai, which got hundreds of lanterns with intricate designs.

After he was given the Kabuhayan Award by former President Fidel Ramos in 1998, he received designing jobs through Paskuhan Village. He did the Department of Tourism building, as well as establishments and streets in Manila, Quezon City, Pasig, Ortigas, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Baliuag, Lucena City and San Fernando.

A member of Save Pampanga Movement, Quiambao and his group started the street décor in San Fernando after the province was devastated by lahar in order to attract business investors.

ROLANDO Quiambao and wife Renita with their dazzling creations.

Together with NGOs, Quiambao also teaches the rudiments of lantern-making, which he learned from Mario Datu (considered "a legend in *parol*-making"), to livelihood groups and out-of-school youths in San Fernando.

This year's Most Outstanding Fernandino, Quiambao and some Pampagueños are compiling Christmas carols in Kapampangan for a CD they plan to produce next year.

Despite the hard times, the *parol*'s message of light and hope remains the same for the Quiambaos and other residents of San Fernando.

"*Malaki ang* potential *ng parol* market. *Pero kailangang paandarin mo ang iyong* imagination. *Wag kang* mag-stick *sa* Christmas as theme. You have to innovate in your designs like when I introduced fruits and flowers, which have become a hit with buyers.

"*Sana tumulong ang* government *para maging* global *ang* market. *Kahit* low-cost production *basta i*-adapt *pa rin ang* culture of Pampanga, *malaking bagay na yon sa amin*. We have to network with other lantern makers to organize the industry," says Quiambao, who offers decorating services to motels, fiestas, beauty pageants and television programs during the off-season as part of his marketing strategy.

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This priest has fallen in love

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

I am 42 years old and I have been a priest for over 15 years. I met a special woman at one of our outings and I can't get her out of my mind. I thought I've handled myself well all these years. I was never tempted before—and there were many temptations—till now.

She is an elementary school teacher, a young widow with two kids. She's my age and I really like her. No—I've fallen in love with her! We've been keeping in touch regularly and it is turning my world upside down. I want to be with her, constantly, but how can I? It will surely break my poor mother's heart if I leave my vocation. It will crush all her respect for me, not to mention the religious community I belong to.

I have a sister who is a nun and our family is the envy of our town. Only a close friend knows the hell I am in. And now this letter to you, a total stranger for a fearless opinion. (Ironic, isn't it? I am like a doctor who cannot cure himself.) I still want to serve God. I know I am serving God, but why do I feel so guilty?

GUILTY SOUL

The Vatican Mafia will surely hang me by my ponytail if I as much as touch this delicate subject. But you asked for a fearless opinion, and a fearless opinion you'll get.

Of course you're prone to temptation. Why not? Did you think that something as tempting and delicious as forbidden love is only heartily dedicated to mere mortals like *moi*? Have you forgotten you are human yourself?

You must know that love is a fever and no warning signals will prevent it. It has to run its course. The more you fight this urge, the more it will surge through your entire being and consume you like wildfire. Your quandary is deeper than raging hormones.

Don't fight it. That's too stressful. Get out, go away and be by yourself. Be alone for a while. You'll need all the quiet and solitude for guidance. Just focus on how you see yourself then, now and most specifically, tomorrow. You will know what to do.

You're a big boy now. Nobody can tell you what's right, left or center. You know them all. And didn't you just mention God? You don't have to worry about Him. You cannot even begin to fathom how immensely out of this world He understands the frailty of human beings.

It is the people around you that will be the pebble in your shoe.

, My 40-year-old son is gay. He has been hiding his sexuality all this time and we never suspected it. It never occurred to any of us, his father and sisters included, that he can be gay. Everything is now falling into place. I could never understand why he wasn't bringing any girlfriend home. I only knew he was not interested in any girl—"yet" as he put it. At most I thought he was just being picky.

My son is a handsome man, tall and very personable. He was a very good student, and now a very successful professional. It was only recently that he told us the truth. He introduced a man to us sometime ago and told us not to get shocked because they have decided to come out into the open and live together. He is my only son and with him goes our lineage. That's what's making me so sad.

MRS. Z

The only sad part in this story is that your son will be the "terminator" of the family name. But your lineage continues with your daughters' offspring. They can always hyphenate their names if they want to.

Be happy for your son because he had the patience and wisdom to wait until he was mature and successful enough to open up to the world his private life. By proving his worth first, he circumvented all the stigma that could have gone with being openly gay in a corporate world.

Can you imagine the minute scrutiny and humiliating intolerance he would have experienced while going up the ladder in that dog-eat-dog environment? He could still have been a victim, had he succumbed to the norm of society and repressed his true self.

He is lucky to have had the guts to come out and find that someone to be with. Long live love!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," Monday-Friday, 7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Don't worry about God.
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how immensely He understands
the frailty of human beings

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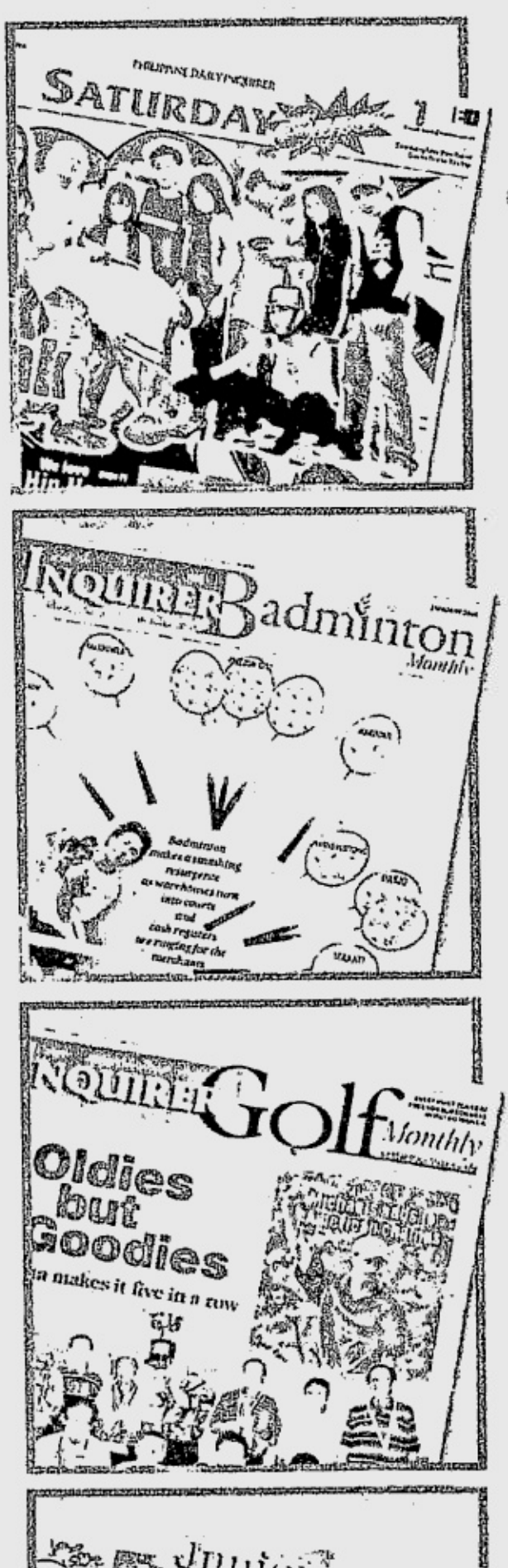

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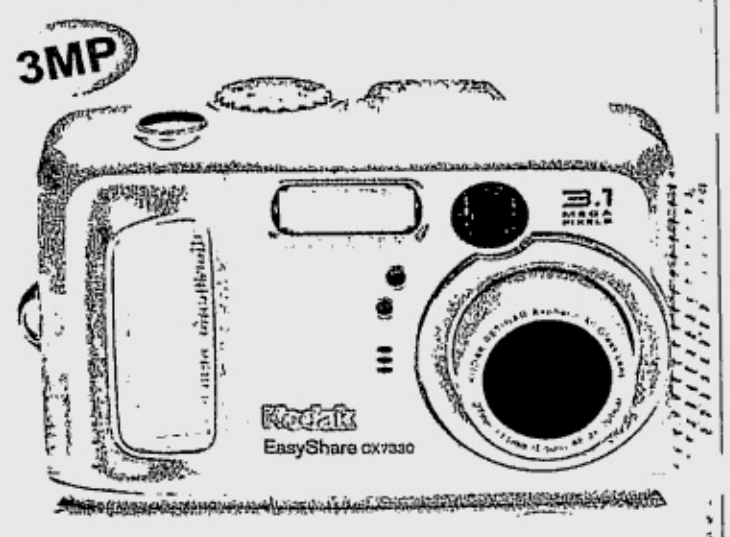

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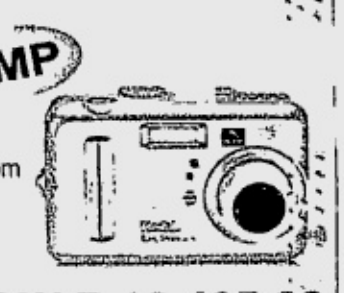

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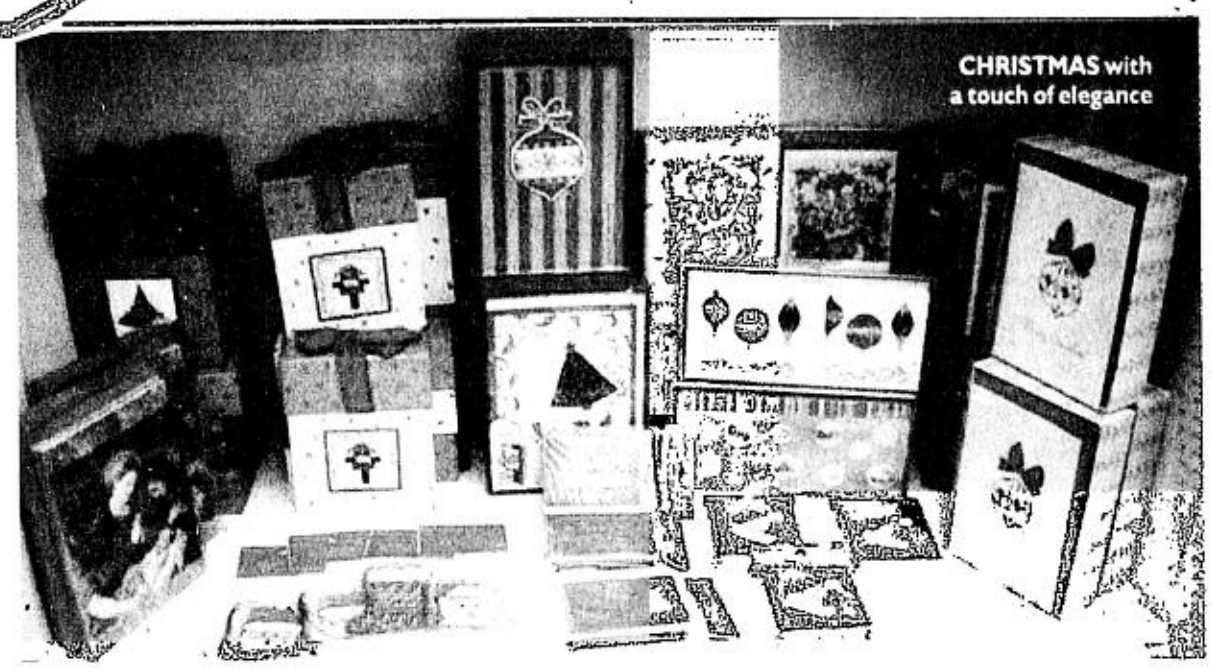
BOXED sets of Christmas cards



Have yourself a merry little Christmas card

By Pam Pastor

CHRISTMAS would not be complete without a card or ten (or even a hundred, if you're lucky).

And right now, thousands of Crane's cards are being prepared all over the world to be sent out in time for the holidays.

The history of Crane's, one of the biggest names in stationery, goes way back to the 1800s. This company has actually been responsible for making paper for US currency since 1879.

Crane's cards, which are 100-percent cotton, may cost more than your typical bookstore-bought card, but apparently there is more to these stationery than meets the eye. They are considered collectibles, what with the date of printing at the back and the limited supply of each design. Auction of Crane's cards are also held abroad for hardcore collectors.

Here in the Philippines, people can get Crane's cards exclusively from Paperie, a shop that specializes in elegant paper. Although Crane's has stopped taking orders for the personalized greeting cards in November (because printing takes a month), there are a lot of ready-made cards that you can buy off the shelves.

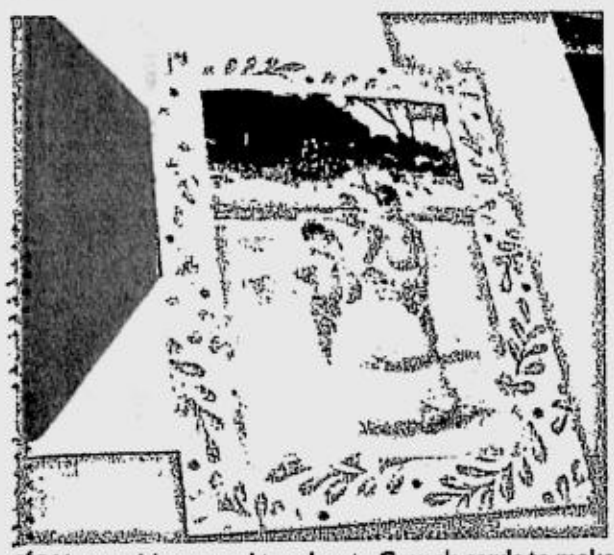
And not only that. Paperie also carries other elegant paper brands from London, New York and Paris. Owner Jonathan Matti says, "There is something for every price range, something for everyone."

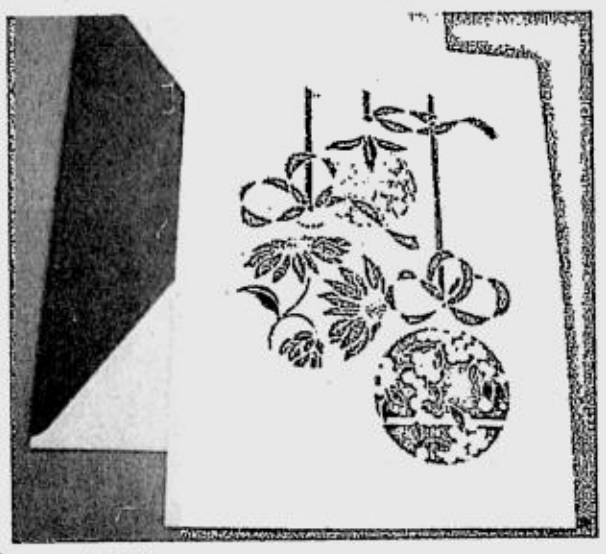
Paperie has made Pinoys with a paper fetish happy for the past 10 years. It found a home in Rustan's Makati for six years before moving to its new shop in Powerplant, Rockwell.

Interesting mix

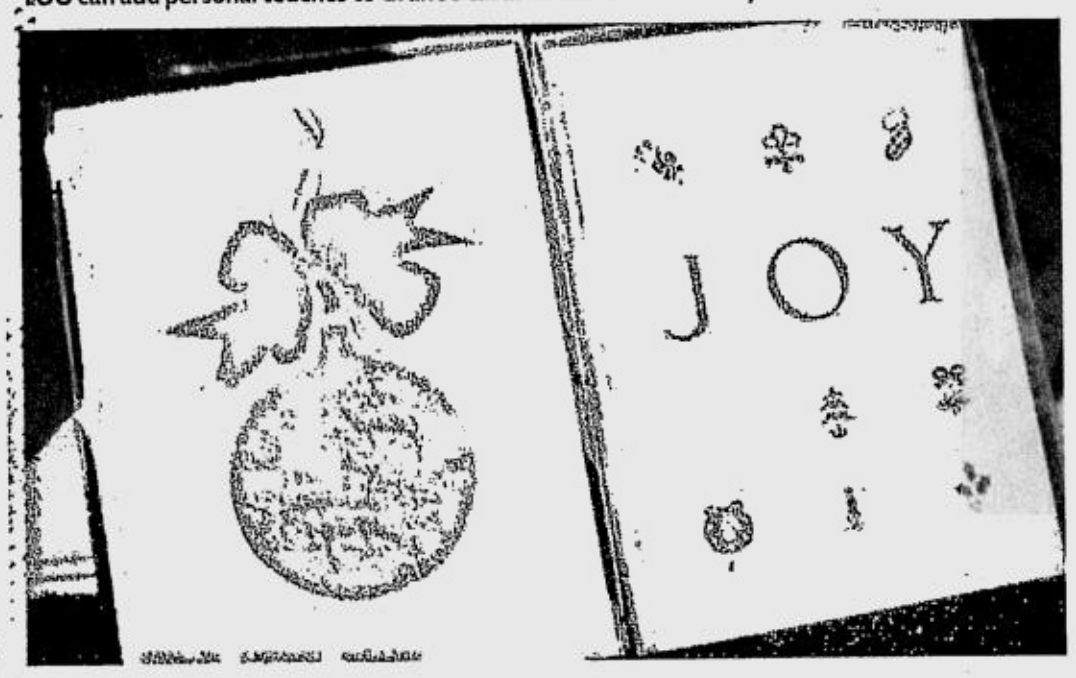
Paperie's collections are an interesting mix. There are elegant and classy stuff but there are modern and cutesy items as well. Aside from the holiday-themed items, Paperie car

HAVE/ F2

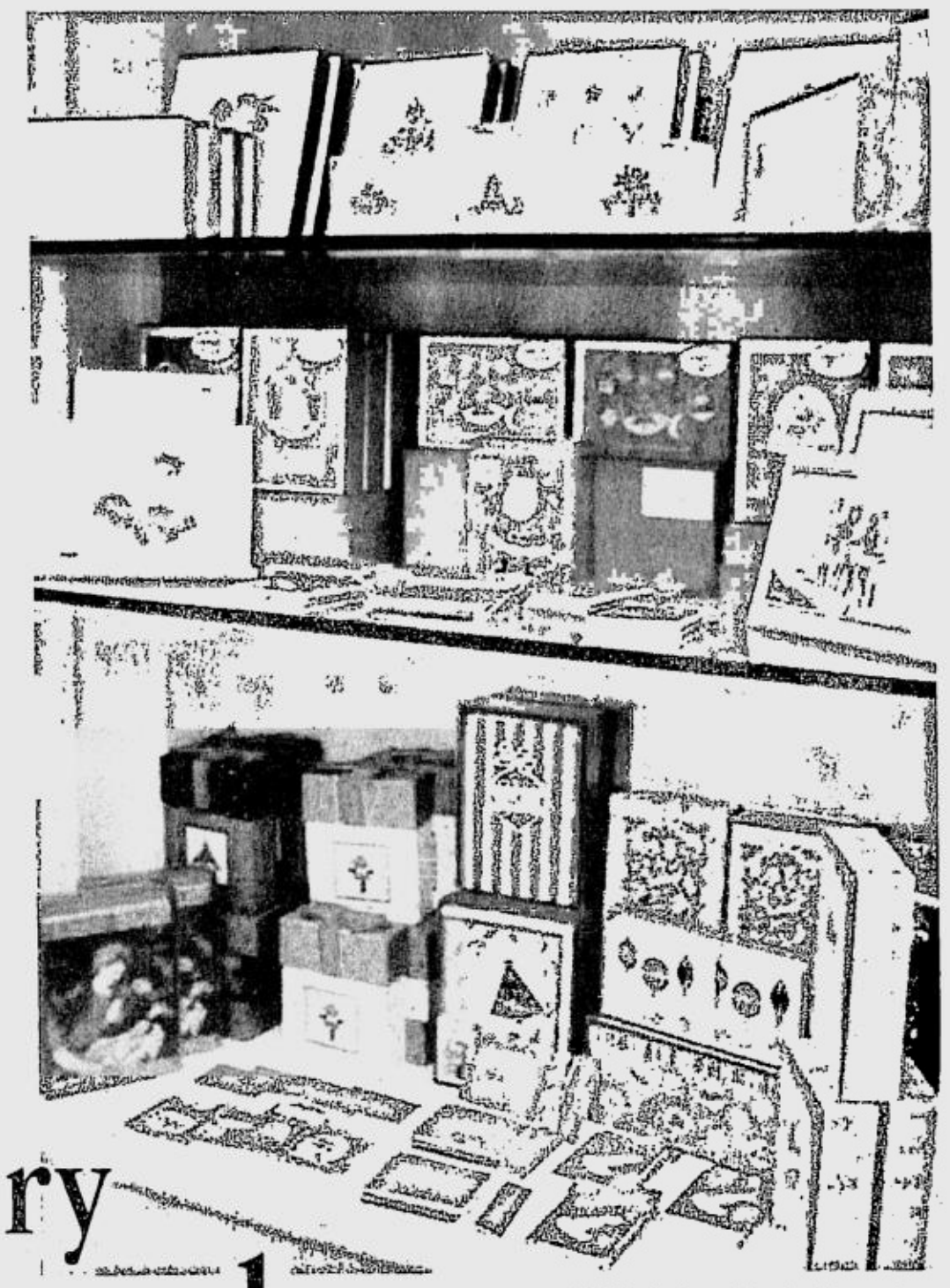




YOU can add personal touches to Crane's cards to make them more you.



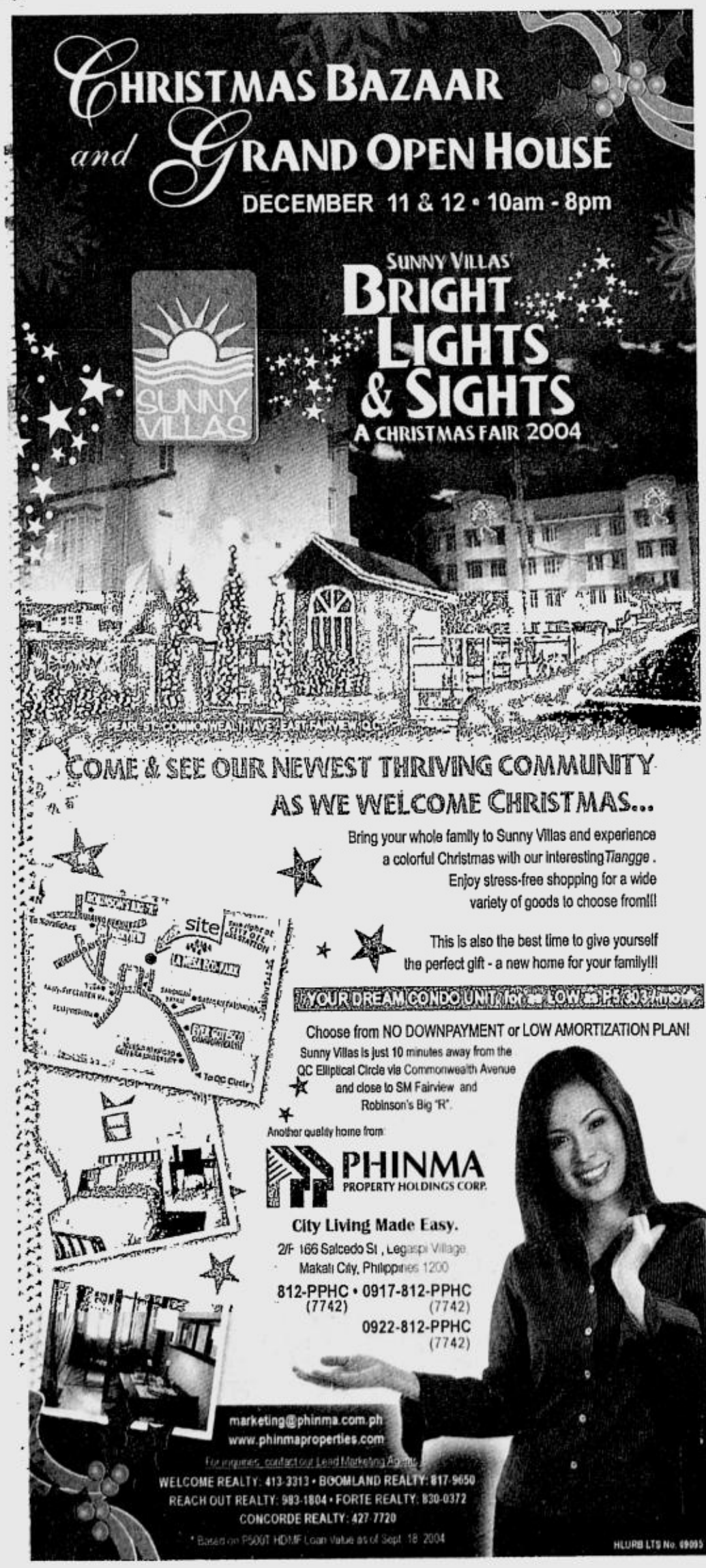
SPREAD a little joy this Christmas.



ALL kinds of greetings for the good boys and girls on your list

Have yourself a merry little Christmas card

From page F1



ries a wide range of paper products, from wedding and other party invitations to personalized stationery and baby stuff.

The bestsellers include Crane's Initial notes, Crane's note cards, Rossi wrapping paper, sheets and notes and Crane's Christmas cards. The items from Gibson sell well too.

In the future, Paperie intends to expand its stocks by introducing journals and even leather goods. Matti travels regularly to discover new collections for his store. He attends paper shows and goes to Crane's factory to see their new creations.

Despite people's growing reliance on technology, Matti is an advocate of handwritten notes.

"I may use e-mail for convenience but I always send a note. After a great dinner, I would send a note. Or I would text people an invitation but a reminder card will always follow. During Christmas, everyone looks forward to my cards," he says.

Especially when they're Crane's. "Go and see and feel the Christmas cards. When you send a Crane's Christmas card, you don't have to send a gift. It's enough," says Matti.

Paperie is located at 2/F Lifestyles at Rockwell PowerPlant Mall, Makati. Call 8982541 or e-mail scribblepaperie@hotmail.com for inquiries.

E-mail the author at ppastor @inquirer.com.ph.

NOT JUST for Christmas. Paperie also has a lot of products for babies.

Yuletide gift and food show

THE 2ND Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show and The 2nd Great Christmas Toy Show is set on Dec. 16-19 at Megatrade Hall 2, 5/L Bldg. B of SM Megamall.

Shop for gift items, personal accessories, leather goods, fashion articles, garments, food treats, and toys from over 150 booths.

Organized by Neotrade Enterprises, this one-stop shop will also hold fun activities for the entire family.

Among the activities are dance numbers by Enchanted Kingdom characters, AVON Skin Care and Makeup demonstrations, X-Trek Micro Racing, Super Yoyo show, cooking demonstrations from Good Housekeeping, and Arts and Crafts workshops conducted by Crayola and Li'l Hands.

Popular celebrities will feature for the 2nd straight year their favorite toys in the show's Celebrity Toy Museum. Among the celebrities who will showcase their prized toys are Ogie Alcasid, Michael V., Ding Dong Dantes, and Melissa Gibbs. Among the exhibitors who will be featured at the show are Las Bordadoras, Aksesorya and Smarty Toys.

British Council presents popular UK traditions

THE BRITISH Council is bringing some of the popular Christmas traditions in the United Kingdom to Filipinos as part of the Amazing EU Christmas at The Podium.

At 4 p.m. on Dec. 14, a storytelling of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and craft session for kids will be given by Melody Remorca in the Activity Center. Remorca is a professional traveling storyteller and was grand champion of the first National Storytelling Competition in 2000.

At 6 p.m., the Coro Angelitos will sing Christmas songs from the UK and the Philippines. The all-boys choir of the Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School in Tondo has won many awards. It uses bamboo musical instruments called Angklung.

Christmas is very much an English tradition. The word, in fact, came from the old English's *Cristis Maessem* or feast of Christmas. Such songs as "Twelve Days of Christmas," "The First Noel," "Joy to the World," "O Come All ye Faithful," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" came from the UK.

The practice of hanging a mistletoe over a doorway or in a room as a token of goodwill and peace to all those who entered is an old Celtic tradition. Kissing under the mistletoe became a Christmas ritual during the Victorian times. The idea of dressing up a Christmas tree originally came from Germany but it wasn't until a newspaper article with a portrait of Queen Victoria and her family decorating a tree came out that Christmas tree became popular. Christmas cards also first appeared in the UK during this time.

Call 9141011 to 14.

Pilita sings to help fellow Cebuanos

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

CEBU'S St. Joseph Foundation takes its name from the patron saint of the Mabolo Parish where, in 1983, the group started as a soup kitchen feeding some 500 children. Three years later this bunch of dedicated ladies from elite Cebu families were giving medical and dental aid, providing milk for babies and livelihood for their mothers.

Crocheted products made by the women are among the most beautiful. **Lulu Aboitiz** allows part of her home to be used as an outlet for them.

Today, the St. Joseph Foundation headed by **Amelia Castillo La'O** has scholarship programs and gives financial aid to various charities in Cebu City.

Funds are derived from efforts of members, and from an annual Christmas bazaar at the Ayala Center.

No bazaar

But this year there was no bazaar. Instead there was a fund-raising show featuring **Pilita Corrales**, who still reigns as Asia's Queen of Songs. Knowing it was for a worthy cause, Pilita magnanimously waived her talent fee. "You want me to come back?" she asked the crowd. "I'll return, for free, for the same cause!"

Preparations for the event started in July by a very dynamic committee. It included Amelia and Lulu, of course, plus **Lourding Marquez**, **Amparito Lhuillier**, **Carmen Campbell** (it was her idea to bring Pilita), **Rosebud Sala**, **Annie Aboitiz**, **Teresing Mendezona** and **Julina Muertegui**. The committee mobilized their friends in getting sponsors, selling tickets and drumming up interest.

The new Casino Español de Cebu was chosen as venue. The price of a ticket included cocktails served an hour before the show at the foyer. The canapes were delicious. So was the Sangria, made from quality wine donated by **Gabriel Palmer**.

Six hundred seats were set up at the Casino ballroom, every one of them taken before the show started. Deafening applause greeted Pilita as she emerged in a slinky shimmering black gown—backless, showing off her creamy complexion to the best advantage.

Defying gravity

"A million thanks... " she warbled, taking that precarious stance that defies gravity, for which she is famous. "*Daghang salamat*," she trilled in Cebuano, continuing in her native tongue. Pilita studied at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion here and was featured in its elaborate *veladas*. Her family moved away when her father died. A few years later she launched her singing career and became a superstar. She's as good, some say better, than ever.

When she sang "Usahay," the Cebuano ballad, she went down the stage and walked in the direction of **Angeling Lhuillier**, who sang the rest of the song with her.

"Señor **Picornell**, *que bien que esta aqui esta noche*," she exclaimed, seeing my father **Santiago** in the next row, next to Cebu City's dazzling First Lady, **Margot Osmeña**. My father, at 92, as mentioned in an earlier column, doesn't miss these events.

My father having been a fan of Pilita since the '50s, we, as children, had to watch Pilita's Sunday television programs.

Pilita moved on to **Harry** and Carmen Campbell, asking them to hold hands as she sang "I don't know why, I love you like I do... I don't know why but I do... "

Two birthday celebrators

"Applause please," Pilita asked the audience. "It was my birthday yesterday." "And today it's mine," quipped **Millie Avila**, who Pilita recognized from way back. The singer planted a kiss on her cheek.

"*Titas*," Pilita shouted, seeing **Milagring Sembrano** and **Jo Magsaysay** who recalled Pilita as the girl next door in Lahug, and how she'd transported the Magsaysay babies to dreamland with her singing.

For the recent show, she sang a medley of songs by **George Canseco** who died recently, mentioning that the arrangement had been made just for her in the '70s. She dedicated "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" to **Louie** and **Annie Aboitiz**.

Spotting the luscious **Annabelle Rama**, she asked her to share a bit of the spotlight with her. "I have a son with your husband, you know," Pilita laughed.

She left the stage for a few minutes to change clothes. Her dashing Argentinian husband, **Carlos Lopez**, asked Carmen, Lulu, Rosebud, Amparito, Teresing, Mem, etc., to go up front. Then he asked the audience to stand and sing "Silent Night" as the lights were dimmed.

Black to red

No sooner had all sat down, Pilita was on stage once more, this time in flaming red flecked with gold, with a slit that showed the shapeliest legs ever. There were more songs in Spanish, English, Tagalog and Cebuano.

Her "Stardust" left Dr. **Carlos Delgado** so stunned, he's still saying it was the most beautiful thing he had ever heard. The song has enjoyed a revival of sorts as it is the title of **Rod Stewart's** latest album.

For her finale, Pilita sang "I Will Survive," which had the audience chorusing, "And how!" Presented with flowers, she said, "I'd like to thank **Anna Conejero** for a magnificent job." Indeed, Anna and her staff at Graphic FX worked morning, noon and night for months to prepare for the show.

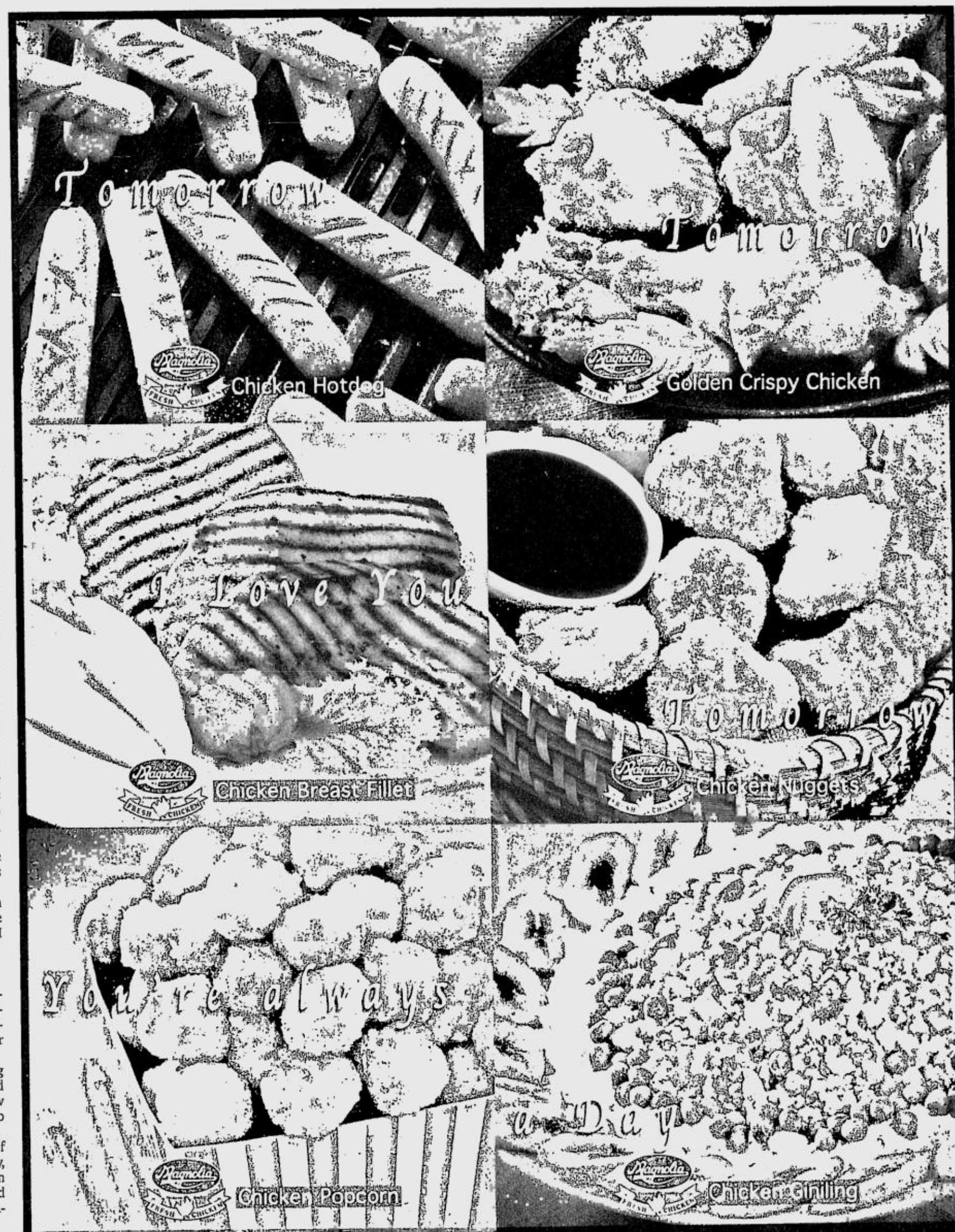
Of course, there was an encore, "Dahil sa Iyo," and the Spanish "Noche de Ronda."

The evening ended with Pilita drawing winning raffle numbers. **Cheding Chiongbian** won the beautiful oil painting of flowers by **Valeria Cavestany de Aboitiz**. **Doris C. Oliva**, Cheding's daughter, accepted the prize.

Maximo Go won a gift certificate from Destinations Specialists, courtesy of **Mary Anne Aboitiz Arculli**.

Chelo Davila Conejero won the most coveted prize of all—a gift certificate that allowed her to choose jewelry from the Amparito Collection shop in Ayala Center.

TERESING Mendezona, Amparito Lhuillier, Lulu Aboitiz, Pilita Corrales, Rosebud Sala, Carmen Campbell and Amelia La'O



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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LRP Foundation clan with Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga and wife Kaye

I'm lagging behind the fitness race but miles ahead in the eating sprint

'Tis the season of binging

'TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE BEST season to be pregnant is during the Christmas holidays because the food choices are limitless and half the presents that are sent to the house are edible. Combined with the many parties, numerous events and restaurant openings this time of the year, one can just eat to one's stomach's content. The main problem is, of course, trying to keep that weight gain within healthy limits.

I've been watching a lot of Carrie Bradshaw in "Sex In The City" and how she continuously writes about men and relationships. Meanwhile, I find myself writing more and more about food and its derivatives.

I totally miss the articles I used to write covering my adventures in a triathlon or hiking up a challenging mountain. Hearing stories from my action-packed cousin and athletic mentor, **Jonjon Rufino**, about how he recently completed the New York Marathon and did so well in local triathlons makes me green with envy. Last week, he finished first in his age bracket in the San Juan ex-tri adventure race, interestingly enough, an event I have also completed in and won in my age group.

If it's too difficult to imagine how I could have won in my age group, perhaps I should add I was the only one competing in that age group! In fact, I was the last person to cross the finish line that day, but hey, a medal was a medal!

Nowadays, I hardly get any e-mail from male readers recommending exercise routines or bike shops. I'm lagging behind in the fitness race and even swimming laps seem to be an enormous endeavor for me.

Just like any exercise discipline, getting started is the most difficult part. Achieving that first 100-meter walk around the polo field is not impossible once it becomes part of one's schedule. I believe that whatever state a person is in, regardless of age or pregnancy, it is important to get any form of workout into the schedule.

Unfortunately, my productive hours only start after lunch, which doesn't leave much time for exercise. I am trying to cheat my body clock, hoping that if I stay in bed till noon then I can avoid any morning sickness. In the meantime, dinner parties and store launches have occupied my evenings before I need to head back home for my "night" sickness.

Grocery-shopping

In the midst of the unusually late and destructive typhoons last week (wherein the strength of prayer somehow diminished one of the storms' ferocity) Cost U Less, a new warehouse-type, no-membership-required grocery opened in Libis. Grocery shopping has been elevated to the top echelon of my social activities so I was so excited to search for bar

'TIS THE/ G2

FULL-SUPPORT. Cary Rufino, Amanda Carpo, Nicole and Frankie Barandiaran, Paz Tanjangco and Charlie Rufino

SPREADING cheers this Christmas

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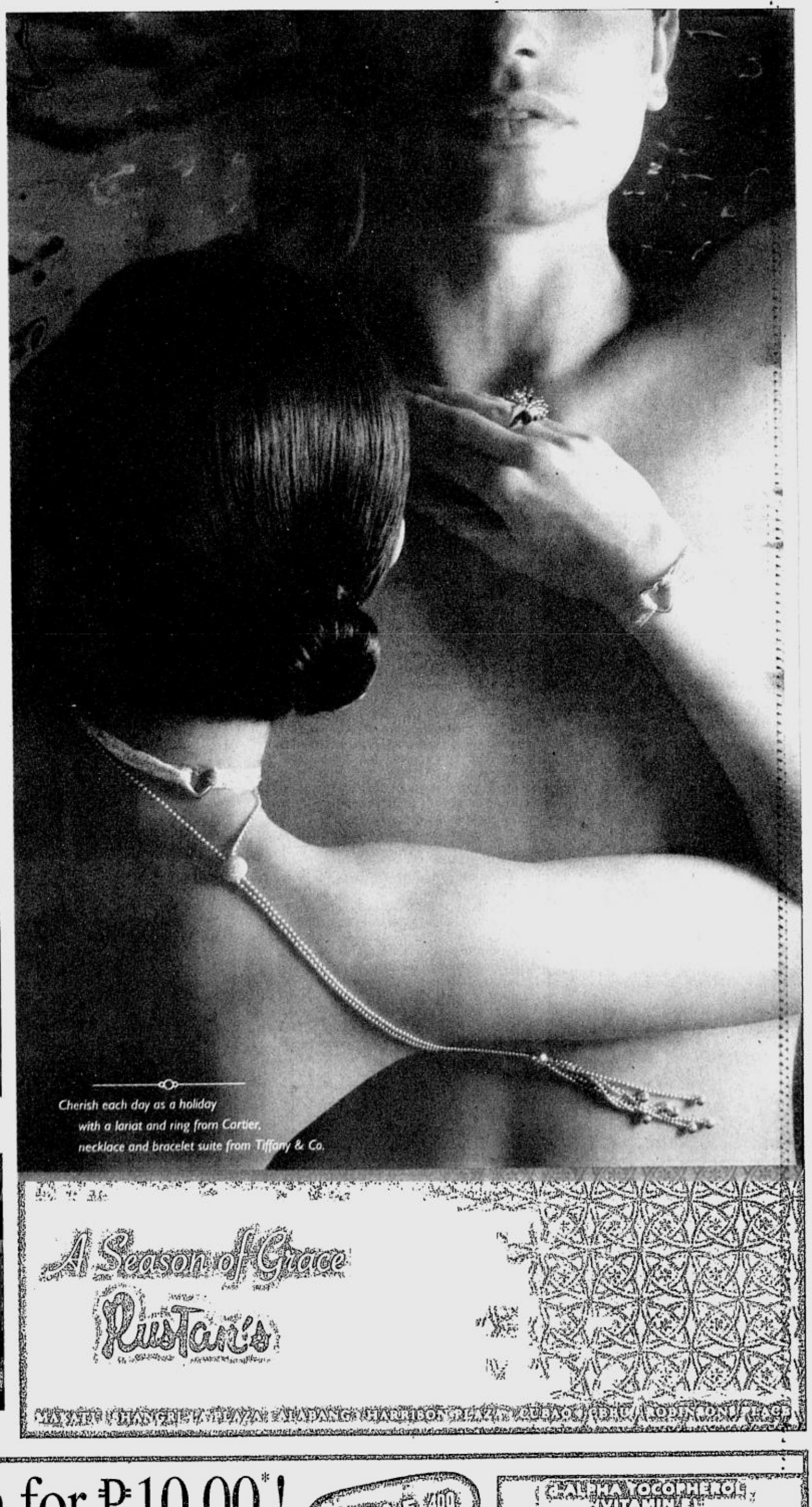
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004



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COST U LESS shoppers Ting and Pilar Estrella

GOLFING friends Manoling and Faye Chan

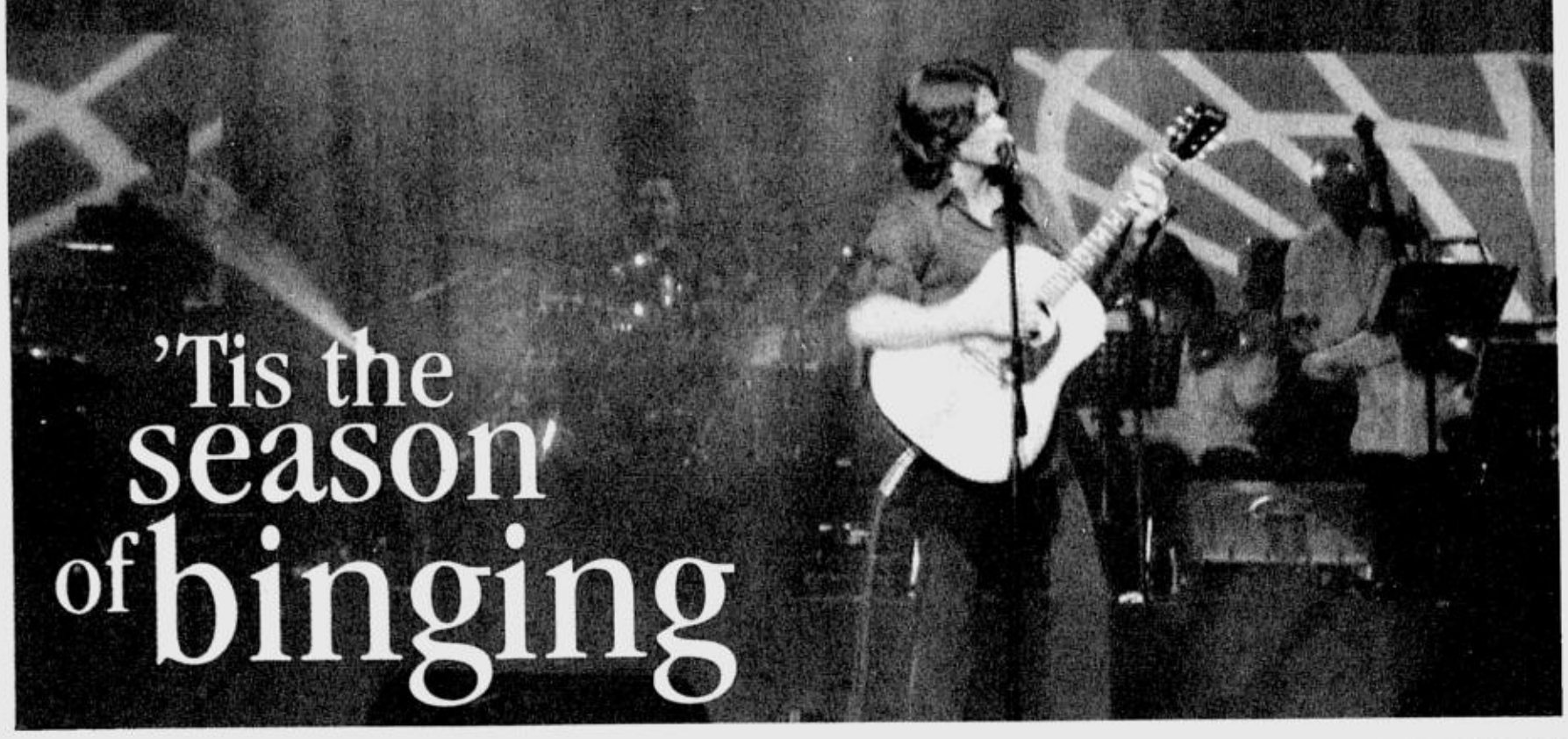
LOVEBIRDS Sen. Mar Roxas and a slimmer Korina Sanchez

SMART Infinity buddies Albert Martinez and Francis Lumen

LOVELY guests Monique Daez and Maryanne Lumen

GRACIOUS host Virgie Ramos with Marilou Martirez and Liezl Martinez

CONCERTgoers Miguel Pastor, Ben Chan and Dennis Valdes



JOSHUA Payne in concert

'Tis the season of binging

SHOPPING friends Rhoda Campos, Sander and Mons Tantoco

PRINCIPAL guests. Rep. Miles Roces, Mayor Lito Atienza and son Kim

JONIAN group. Mic, Ayris and Tess Guieb and Lydia Samonte

VIRTUAL twins. Sea Princess and Angelu de Leon

From page G1

gains in comparison to other similar outlets like Price Smart.

There was a good turnout considering the news about the upcoming storm and the horrendous traffic that evening. After I complimented one of the guests of honor, **Korina Sanchez**, on her noticeably slimmer figure thanks to the South Beach Diet, I started to navigate the aisles in search of cheaper goods. The good news is that the selection is vast and the prices are competitive and you don't have to buy a dozen toothbrushes at one time.

I ended up buying relief goods for the typhoon victims and sent them straight to the INQUIRER office. It was so timely that I was able to shop and got a lot more, spiritually speaking, for the amount I spent. It's really great that so many of our countrymen have been pitching in to send relief goods to the typhoon victims. It just shows how Filipinos care. Back to Cost U Less though, I will have to go back because even their toys and DVD players are the cheapest around.

Last Sunday, the LRP Foundation held a soup kitchen and gift-giving in Taguig. After all the preparations for 1,000 families, I was ready to spend my Sunday morning distributing soup and pails of various grocery items together with my kids and the rest of my cousins.

I was miraculously awake by 8 a.m. but was not feeling altogether, so sent my troop, Dennis and kids, ahead. I decided to take a short nap, which unfortunately lasted until noon. Needless to say I missed the whole thing though I was there in spirit. I had intended to come in my Mrs. Claus outfit, but I guess that will have to wait until next year, when I will surely be in better shape to volunteer.

Soulful Joshua

That same evening was the Smart Infinity-sponsored concert of soulful balladeer **Joshua Payne** at the Meralco Theater. A modern-version, more-hip-looking **John Denver** look-alike, this Christian crooner from the American South can play the guitar and piano aside from having a wide vocal range. Simply amazing, as Smart would put it, was this singer.

After a wonderful serenade, we had the mother of all nightcaps—a sumptuous, midnight dinner at Gift Gate queen Virgie Ramos' home. The delicious spread by Via Mare started with duck and eggplant crepes and proceeded through turkey, Virginia ham, *arroz caldo* and *champorado*, finally finishing with multiple desserts. The new food award of the night was a gigantic, baby bassinet-sized *chicharon* brought by belly dancing-mate **Maryanne Lumen**.

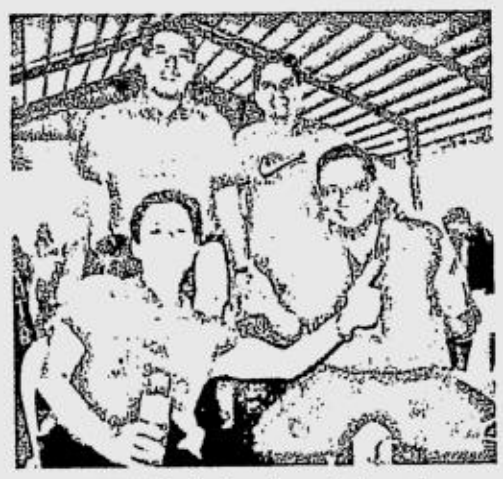
That evening, everyone's cholesterol level must have skyrocketed and exercise was the next order of the day. As a nightcap, Tatler editor and master singer **Anton San Diego** sang twice before passing the mike to Smart big boss **Boy Martirez**. Boy said he could only sing at small parties so as not to be humiliated. In fact, he practices just one song as a reserve just in case he cannot get out of performing.

His lovely wife **Marilou** was so happy when Boy came home with a major raffle prize, a home theater system from the 3rd Hundred Presidents INQUIRER Golf Tournament in Tagaytay Midlands last month. According to her, Boy normally has to waive whenever he wins in Smart-sponsored tournaments. That day of the golf tournament was a true miracle. Boy told me that the rain stopped just minutes before the 10 a.m. shotgun start.

Boy also invited me to the Smart Golf Tournament this coming Dec. 16 at the Alabang Golf and Country Club. Well, unfortunately that is another sporting event that will have to wait for next year! Meanwhile, I am focusing on eating my way through the holiday season!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Golf Monthly group with Jong Arcano



SUPPORTIVE relatives Arsenic Laurel, Windy Imperial, Chinit Rufino and Manny Tanjangco

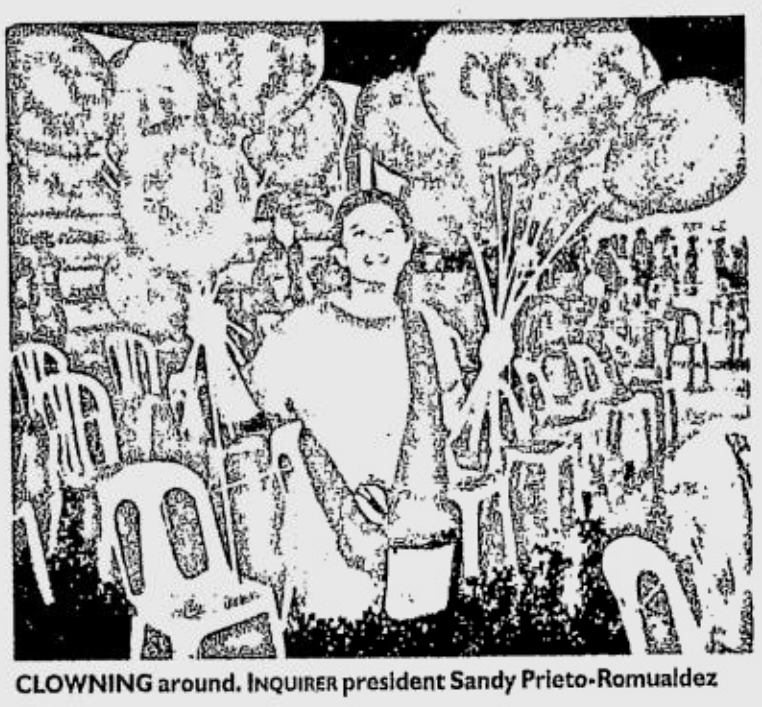
SUPER guys Ricky Isla and Miguel Ramos

MEDIA friends Pepper Teehankee and Anton San Diego

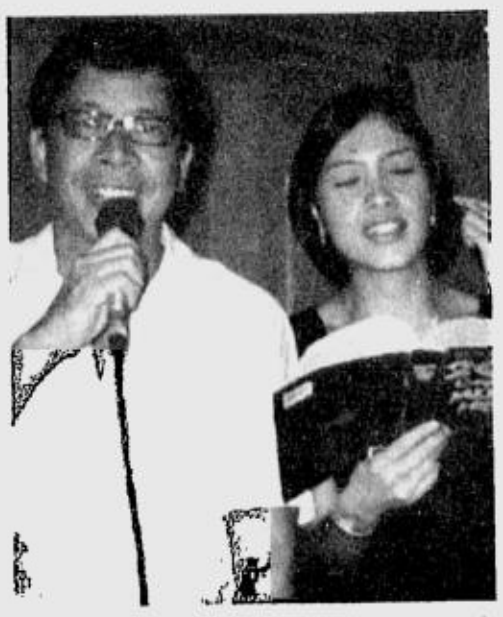
JUN Allanigue comforting a child

PILES of happiness

TAGAYTAY Highlands gang. Julie Fernandez, BPI's Gigi Montinola, Willy Ocier and Belinda Herrera



CLOWNING around. INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez



BOY meets girl. Smart boss Boy Martirez and singer Girl Valencia

Recognition for schools, government agencies

CONVERGYS Corp. hosted a dinner to give recognition to 20 of the country's educational institutions and 15 government agencies for their assistance in the recruitment and hiring of many young Filipinos.

A global leader in customer care services, Convergys, headed by country manager and vice president Marife Zamora, has contact centers in Makati, Pasig, Cebu and Alabang, employing nearly 4,000 people in the Philippines.

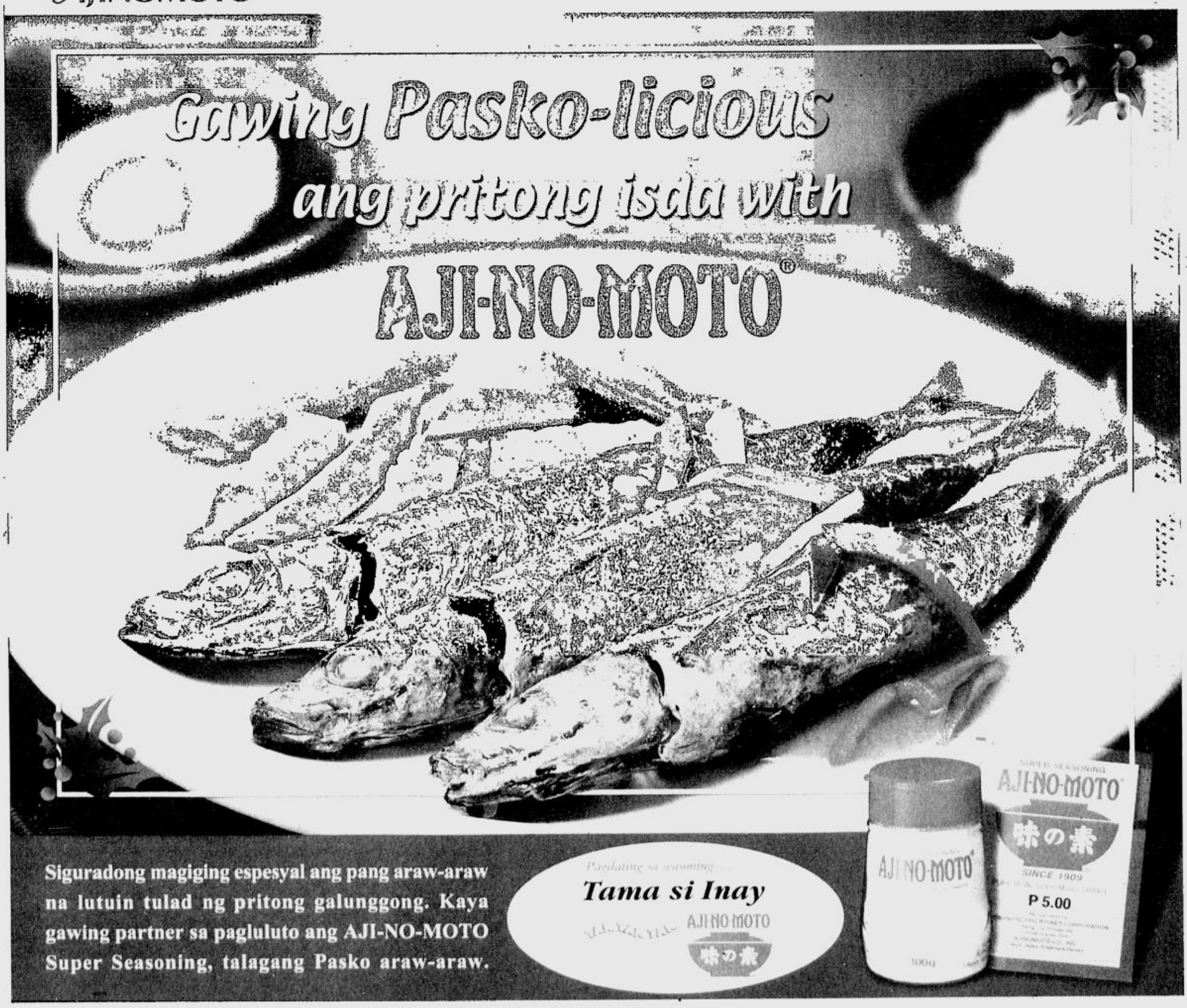
Schools honored during the special dinner were Adamson University, AMA Education System, Assumption College San Lorenzo, Ateneo Education System, Centro Escolar University, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, De La Salle Education System, Far Eastern University, Mapua Institute of Technology, Miriam College, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, St. Paul College-Manila, St. Paul College-Quezon City, St. Scholastica's College, San Beda College, University of Santo Tomas, University of the East and University of the Philippines.

Also honored were the Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, as well as the Public Employment Service Offices of different local government units.

UP vice chancellor for student affairs professor Theresa Jasmines, UP guidance service specialist Dr. Rosalinda de Mesa and UP OIC-Job Fair Delia Laguyo

ASSUMPTION College VP for administration affairs Ma. Cristina Avanceña, CEU recruitment and placement director Ma. Eleanor Espinas, DLSU director for office of career services Monina Banaynal and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde CPO director Ma. Teresa Jose

A taste of the future.
AJINOMOTO



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Guest editors Bea Valdes and Isa Lorenzo

COVER TO COVER

skin deep

By Bea Valdes

SKIN, the first frontier. It is our biological armor—what we are wearing when we are born.

Since we made that first leap of fate, we've practiced the ritual of cover. For some, the rites of fashion define them. For others, clothes allow fluidity in identity: different personas, different skins.

In the end, everyone seems to agree that it's not about the clothes, it's all about character; not the style, but the spirit. (Living proof of this is Joey "Pepe" Smith, who indulged us for this shoot, which took only three minutes, three minutes of perfect magic.)

Most of the glossy images here have been conjured by photographers and stylists. Everything is crafted by their Midas touch. This issue is a tribute to a new generation of their tribe.

We try to catch the beat—from Ziggy Stardust to Jim Morrison. We let the stylists take old inspirations from style icons and provide them with a contemporary spirit.

Meanwhile, we let the photographers witness these renovated styles through their looking glass, enabling us to see the point where music and fashion collide.

Ultimately, fashion is exploring what covers and uncovers us, mining and exposing what lies beneath.

PHOTO BY ISA LORENZO

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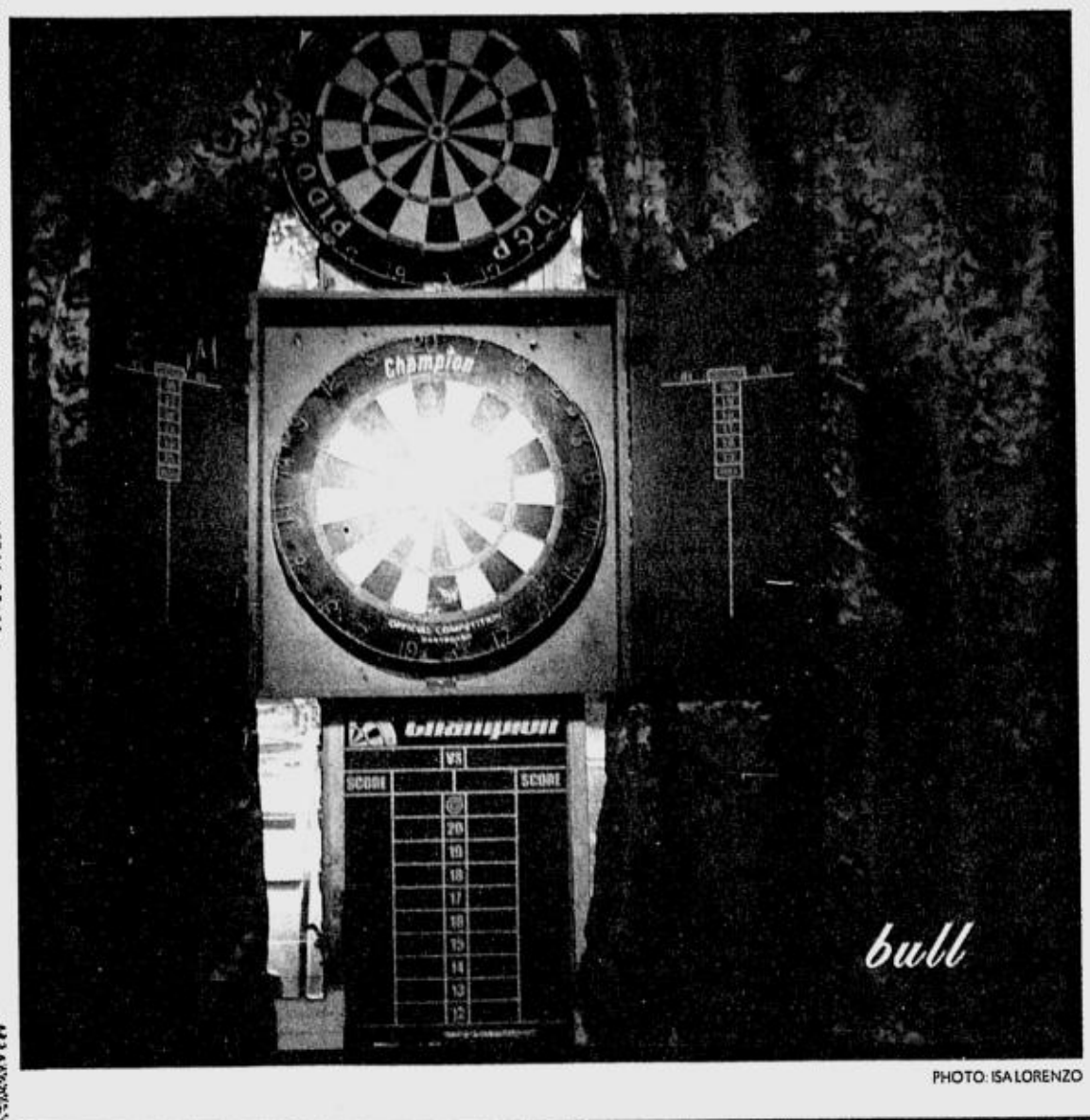


PHOTO: ISA LORENZO

PHOTO: JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO

JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO

skin trade

Skin is power. Our capitalist world is driven by the skin trade

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

THE PROVERB is dead.

By what criteria can we judge a book, other than its cover?

Content and substance, the flesh and bones of polymerous organisms, be it man or his making, find themselves antiquated principles in a world with little patience and attention span.

This is the age of the Capitalist, where Wal-Mart the Great sweeps away the quaint fiefdoms of individuality, and the masses prostrate themselves before the blood-stained altar of MTV, where infidels are Googlewhacked in sacrifice to appease the Hilton sisters.

Media and technology, those incestuous siblings, have birthed a Grendel called the Internet, an amphibious behemoth of porn and blogs and direct shopping, that slowly, with the leisurely pace of the inevitable, has crept into the banquet halls of modern living, and devoured our sentries.

And Beowulf? Apparently, he's metrosexual.

Content and substance still matter, of course. In a Utopian universe, they would be the only things that mattered. But our reality hardly allows us the time to sift and sort through the silt for that solitary nugget of gold; the river has gotten too fast and too wide.

A million books are highly recommended, rated by fellow readers, reviewed and awarded by literary lists, commented on by distinguished authors. Every movie poster is pockmarked by glowing critiques and hailed as the year's best comedy/ drama/ horror flick.

Music stores have become the playground for a horde of unruly albums all lining up for their turn at the 15-minute swing of fame.

I know I want to watch a good movie, read a good book and listen to good music, but how do I make a choice when I don't have the luxury of spending a whole day sampling pieces?

The ugly truth is that the book cover may be sufficient enough evidence to swing a jury into a verdict of purchase. We gravitate toward what visually stimulates our senses—books with catchy titles or engaging art work, movies with flashy trailers, people who stand out in a crowd.

It's packaging, stupid

The actual quality of the material is often suspect, but it's not about that anymore. It's about packaging, and marketing. The world is inundated with aesthetically pleasing packages of pulchritude who actually think they can only take the SATs on a Saturday.

Through no fault of their own, these beautiful beings have been given millions of dollars, recording deals, reality TV shows, movie cameos, book co-authorships, and product endorsements, simply because 350 million less-beautiful think that "Jesus is cool, but Usher is hot!"

This is the era of C students who can govern the world as long as they appear presidential; this is the period of mindless emulation for all things blonde, blue-eyed and mildly confused about whether tuna is chicken or fish. This is the epoch of skin.

And skin is hardly a bad thing to be showing. In fact, it is a necessity. Skin, that membrane which clothes, protects, gives us identity, is now, more than ever, integral to the continued survival of an artist or an artwork. People who understand the importance of their appearance, who accept the process of shedding their skins, and exploit this natural tendency to their advantage, these are the people who enjoy longevity.

Skin is identity. We recognize products and people by their emblems and fashion. Einstein and Warhol, two really smart cats, could be distinguished by their hairstyles more than by their respective works involving the relativity of soup.

We identify decades by the business suits the gentlemen put on, and the bathing suits that the ladies took off.

Musical genres and generations such as glam, punk, hip-hop, grunge and the '80s, can be deciphered in terms of hair spray, leather, flannel or bling-bling. The eye listens, and tastes, and hears, and feels, with a tactile sensitivity forced into its evolution by the century-long explosions of visual grenades being hurled at it.

Skin is fashion. Just as we compound the crust of the earth with asphalt and steel, we have realized that our own epidermal layer is an organ that duplicates as a canvas.

SKIN/ H3

skin tirade

From page H2

Oh, most of us are terrible artists whose paint brushes should have been confiscated early on, but a few have managed to create works worthy of hanging in the museum of human memory.

Prince (or whatever name he goes by as of this writing) is my pick of the litter, with his ozone-slaying coiffure and velvet jackets complementing— and sometimes, distracting from—his auditory brilliance.

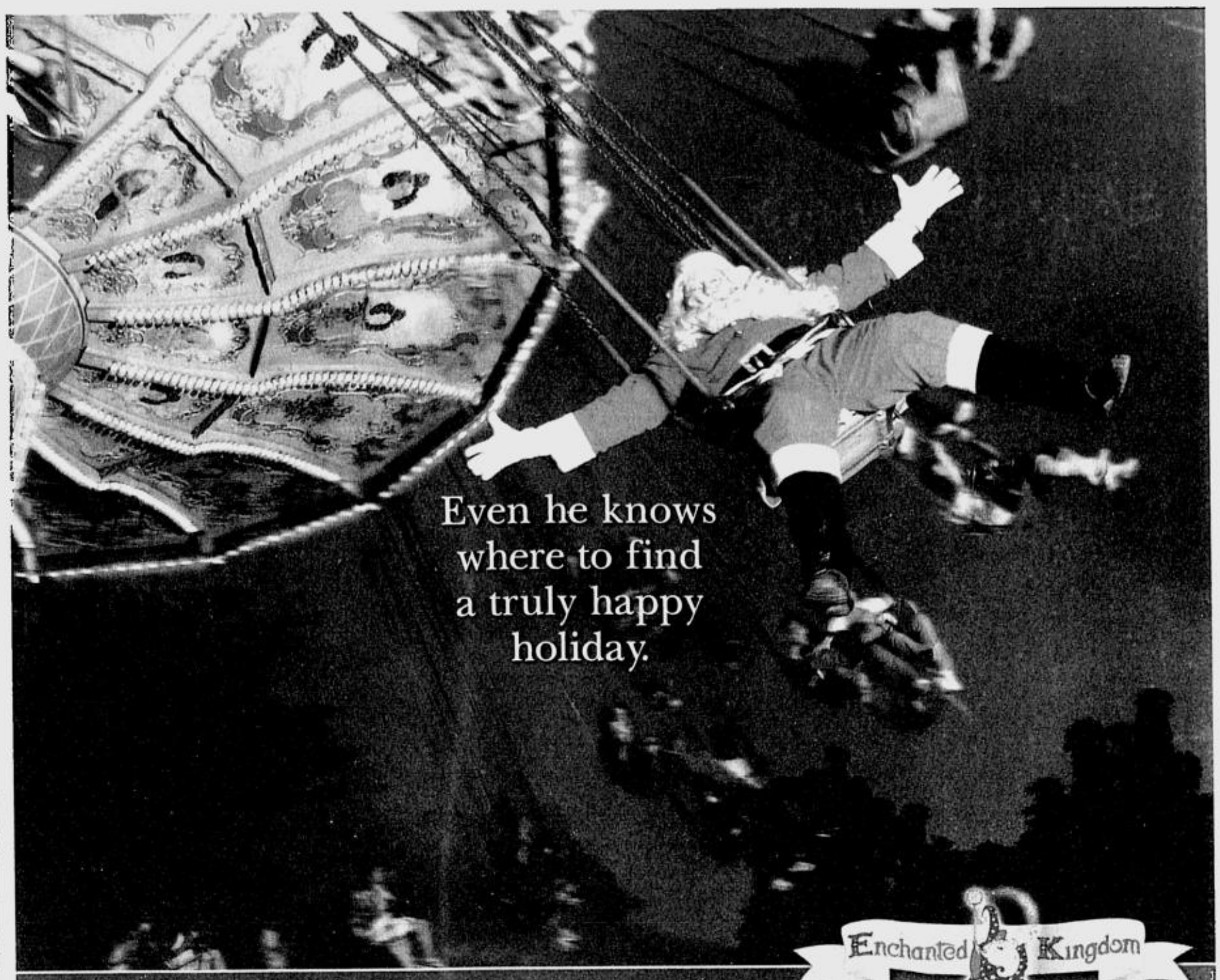
Metallica's self-titled album, or The Beatles' "The White Album," or Nirvana's "Nevermind," are iconic in terms of musical accomplishment, but it didn't hurt that their album covers—stark colors and a naked baby—achieved genius of a visceral and visual nature as well.

And who can forget the respective cultural revolutions heralded by Demi Moore's haircut in "Ghost," Jennifer Aniston's hairstyles in "Friends," and (God forgive me) Mark Wahlberg's underwear in those Calvin Klein ads?

Best defense

Skin is protection. It can be empowering and defensive at the same time. It is a fortification of silk and silicon, of bleach and beads, from which we defend against the enemy and simultaneously launch an offensive.

SKIN/ H4



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JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO

skin tirade

ISA LORENZO

From page H3

Like a social condom, it can prevent public scrutiny from intruding, or accidental emissions of genuine personality.

Beneath the platinum chains and gold teeth, most rappers hide a softer side, longing for the scent of jasmine and the poetry of John Donne.

But the façade allows them the leeway to sell millions of records to kids who idolize their Bentleys and bullet wounds.

Alice Cooper, in the pinnacle of his career as a shock-rock performer in the '70s, used to spew gouts of imitation blood on stage while whipping mannequins with bicycle chains. In truth, he never drinks, or does drugs, or even worships the devil. He likes to play golf. But thousands of headbangers who watched Alice bite into the head of a plastic baby, are not going to ask him about his thoughts on Tiger Woods.

Skin is mortal. It dies, and quickly, too. The trick is, to put on a new one before the wrinkles crease on the old one. It is a natural process realized by those rare personas that have managed to role with the punches of time and public opinion.

In this sense, skin is a cocoon, expressing metamorphosis and growth. David Bowie, that protean spirit of malleable fashion, epitomizes this understanding of mortal skin—he has managed to reinvent himself in so many effective incarnations that he has surpassed the concept of fashion template, instead ascending into the realm of fashion totem.

Madonna and Lenny Kravitz are hovering in a lower stratosphere, but they're up there as well. You lose a lot of loyal fans this way, as evidenced by all those gripers who complain that Metallica sold out by cutting their hair, but at least they're still around and going strong.

Be like the snake

The snake that cannot shed its skin perishes. Likewise those spirits who are prevented from changing their opinions; they cease to be spirits. Smart dude, that Nietzsche. Skin is our identity, our statement, as well as our buffer zone. But if we fail to manifest changes in our lives, we're going the way of the cultural dinosaurs that perished during the Vanilla Ice age.

There is content and substance lurking in the vacuum, between covers that may or may not be distinguishable from the swarm of jackets flashing their toned bindings and fleshy spines.

Make no mistake; what lies beneath the hypodermic level is what truly matters. Perhaps we shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but if John Kennedy Toole's "A Confederacy of Dunces" didn't sport such an absurd cover illustration, I might have left it on the bookstore shelf beside "The Alchemist."

And as we search, so are we sought after. The challenge is to get noticed. We are needles in a stack of needles, and the one that is plucked out is not necessarily the sharpest, but the shiniest.

So we fashion our skins, hopefully projecting a visual aura that accurately depicts what we have to offer. Because we have music, and art, and literature, and life inscribed into the grooves of our persons, waiting to be discovered, shared, appreciated and criticized.

PHOTOGRAPHY
JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO AND ISA LORENZO / SILVER LENS
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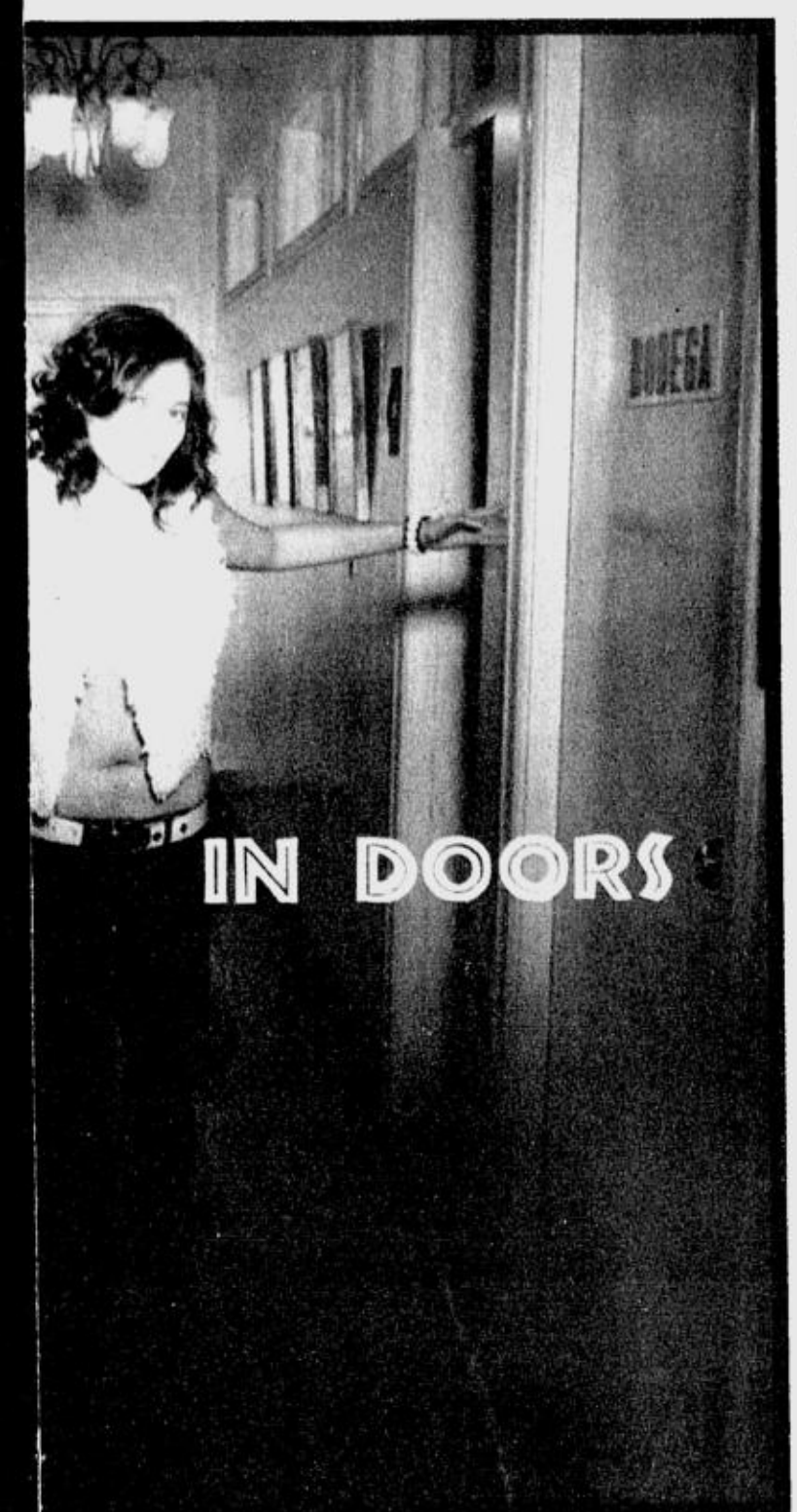

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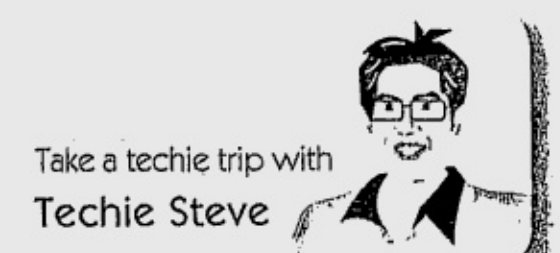

Hello there once again, Buddyzone pals! Techie Steve here with another dose of your cool SMART Buddy content. As you all know by now, Buddyzone is all about the most talked about, easy to use SMART Buddy services and downloads that make you and your other SMART buddies the toast of the town. This week, I've got a whole new bunch of stuff you can try out on your SMART Buddy phone now!

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Till our next foray into Buddyzone, this has been your gadget guru Techie Steve. Go on and explore all that SMART Buddy has to offer!

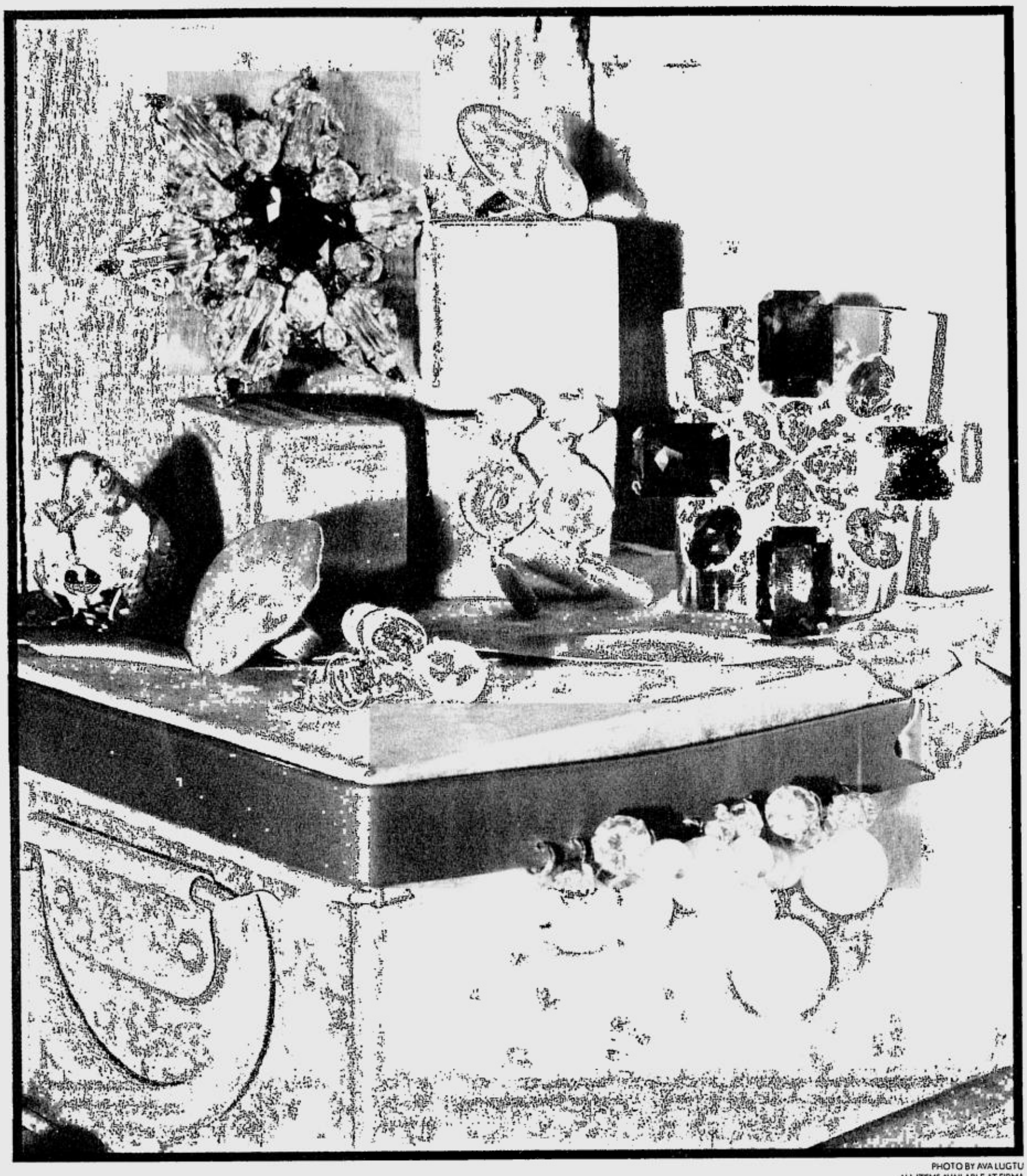


PHOTO BY AVA LUGTU
ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE AT FIRMA

Curious anatomy

Primitive cultures used tattoos as one of the earliest forms of ornamentation. These were signifiers of certain accomplishments, of status, as well as decoration. Today, bangles, brooches and beadwork still skim the skin, creating jeweled joints on our curious anatomy. This season's specials put the spark in sparkle; high on Wham, Bam, Thank you Glam. Modern artisans take their clues from crystals; contemporary alchemists searching for signs of precious mettle.

Surfing nattiness and style

Here is a quick fashion cycle survival guide, from a straight meat-and-potatoes male perspective

By Gerrard C. Fabie
Contributor

There's a reason the anointed fashion plates in our realm are who they are. Usually, it's not just because they alone jet across the globe and get away with donning the latest Autumne-Hivre in our part of the tropical woods without a sweat.

It's that they set the trends with classics, not the fads. Ting-Ting Cojuangco has stated in countless interviews that her staple is the white shirt and jeans look. She owns that look. And even if some bend over backwards to ape her dictum, only a few truly deserving ones pull it off. They don't need to be named.

So here lies an essential truth. Sensitivity—not money—is key to style. It's also key to surviving the fickle fashion cycle. For some, being caught with last year's look is certain social death. Such is the potential fate of the trend-slave.

Here then is a quick fashion cycle survival guide, from a straight meat-and-potatoes male perspective.

Three phases

The three phases of any fashion trend generally goes from hot, hotter, to cold (that's why we call it fickle). The first is the "distinctiveness" phase of the cycle, usually its first Italian or French unveiling for the season. Celebs and socialites make the necessary trips to the red carpet and bring the prizes home for the rest to ogle at. This is aspirational marketing in its purest form.

The second phase is the emulation phase. Clamor grows incandescent as every label floods the market with its own version of the item. This, even as there seems to be no end to demand evidenced in TV, film, print or the Internet. But of course, those in the know better.

Inevitably the saturation phase kicks in, where every imaginable cheap knock-off can be had in every glorious ukay-ukay and Greenhills stall. Even the good men at Cartier concede: They can be so convincing that it would require a "slicing of the bag's lining" to verify authenticity. Gruesome, if you ask me.

So what to do?

Sticking to the classics seems to be an easy rule. But trickier still would be to spot those with staying power as they emerge. Consumer buying power is the main determinant in shaping a trend into a classic.

Good recent examples seem to be capris, tank tops and flip flops, according to one writer who also says that "durable" trends come in longer 20-year cycles. Refer to the miniskirt as it hopped from the '60s to the '80s to today.

Personally, if you ask me, I can't honestly see how good legs can ever be out of fashion.

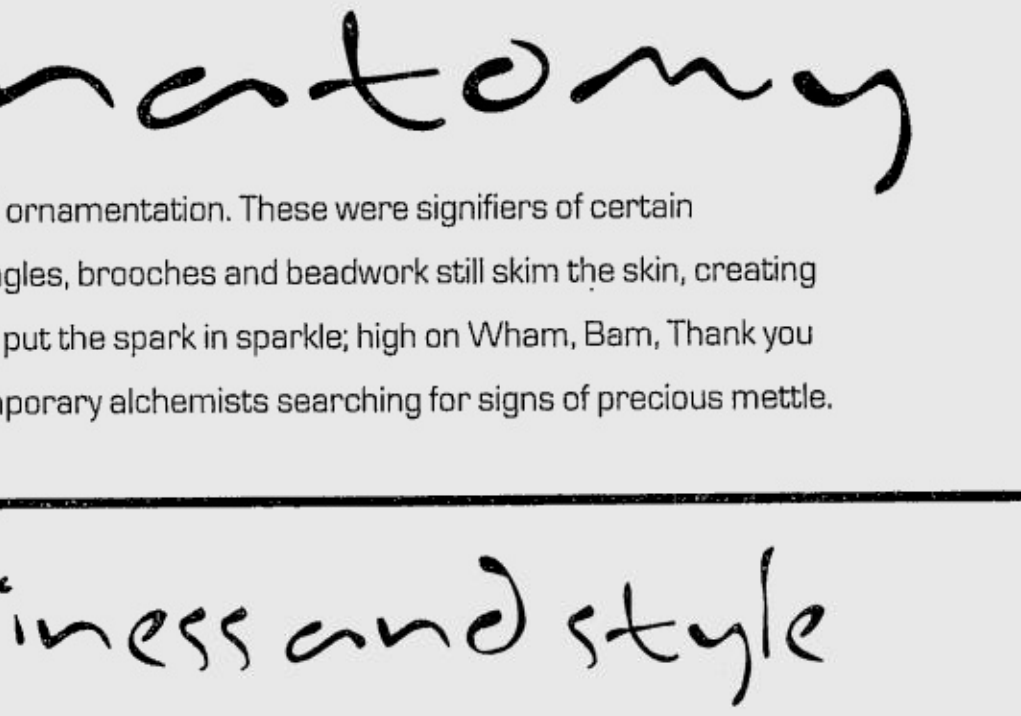


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH I BRAVO

Six months

Remember, too, that the length of the trend depends on when in the cycle you took the plunge and bought in. Since major designers slice the year into autumn-winter and spring-summer, this means at the very least you have six months of trend life. As a rule, trends fizzle out within a year.

Also, higher profile "extreme" trends live a blessedly shorter life. And for that reason, I'm also personally hoping that the shag-cut, blond-streaked hair men wear nowadays will soon go the way of the lemming.

Maybe in the process, male news anchors in their '40s wearing tight T-shirts screaming "Ralph Lauren Sport 00" when making on-the-field-reports on the homeless will thankfully come to their senses as well. However, we make one vain hope at a time.

After all, to be truly stylish, the most we can hope for is to stand out, not to stick out.

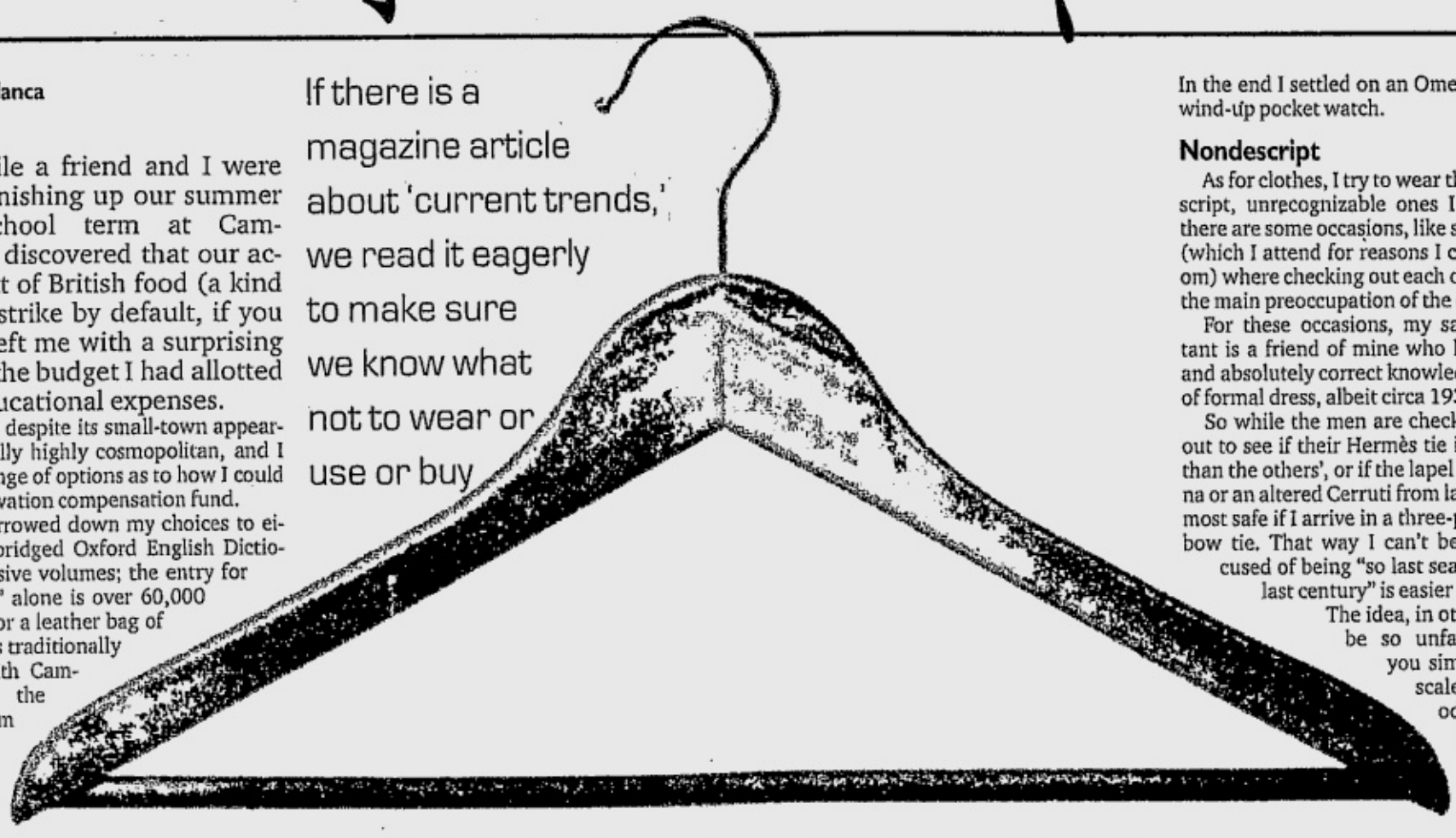
Anti-fashion passion

By Clinton Palanca
Contributor

While a friend and I were finishing up our summer school term at Cambridge, we discovered that our active boycott of British food (a kind of hunger strike by default, if you will) had left me with a surprising surplus in the budget I had allotted for non-educational expenses.

Cambridge, despite its small-town appearance, is actually highly cosmopolitan, and I had a wide range of options as to how I could invest my starvation compensation fund.

I finally narrowed down my choices to either the Unabridged Oxford English Dictionary (17 massive volumes; the entry for the word "go" alone is over 60,000 words long), or a leather bag of the sort that is traditionally associated with Cambridge dons, the sort from which you would expect them to pull out a Babylonian manuscript. I turned to my friend for advice.



If there is a magazine article about 'current trends,' we read it eagerly to make sure we know what not to wear or use or buy

"Normally," he replied thoughtfully, "it would make sense to prioritize learning over an accessory. But since you'd be buying either of them for no other reason than pure vanity anyway, I say get the bag. It's easier to carry around."

I actually ended up getting neither, but nor did I take any offense at the comment. This was, after all, someone who himself understood a thing or two about a particular kind of vanity: the anti-fashion vanity.

Rejection of the new

Both of us were happily using the first versions of the iPod for a year until it took over the world. Now, mine never leaves the house. When we shop for, say, shoes of a brand that is also locally distributed, we first ascertain what is available here, and then go and get what isn't.

If there is a magazine article about Current Trends, What's in Fashion Now, "Must-Haves" Of The Moment, we read it eagerly to make sure we know what not to wear or use or buy.

But at a certain point, we diverge in our motivations for this rejection of what is currently the rage, or what everyone is falling in line to get, or what is supposedly the look of the moment (as described, incidentally, in magazines prepared two months in advance).

He is a very social person, and enjoys asserting his individuality when he goes out. The "unfashionable" things he buys might be a jacket or shoes that other gay men will notice and admire.

On the other hand, I am a straight man who has terrible fashion sense, and I avoid fashion partly out of vanity, but equally so out of a massive insecurity. I have no idea, for instance, what the fashionable brands are, or which says what about you (personality, disposable income, good taste, etc.).

Take watches, for example. I have a friend who is constantly advising me on what the currently fashionable men's watches are, and how, as an accessory, it would make all the difference.

Now I actually do like watches; I have a thing for gadgets. But after being told that the Cartier tank is no longer the "correct" gentleman's watch and now smacks of nouveau riche Shenzhen businessmen, I had to rethink my purchase.

I was given a litany of various brands and models, known and obscure, to choose from. In the end I settled on an Omega, but a 1934 wind-up pocket watch.

Nondescript

As for clothes, I try to wear the most nondescript, unrecognizable ones I can find. But there are some occasions, like socialite parties (which I attend for reasons I can't quite fathom) where checking out each other's outfits is the main preoccupation of the evening.

For these occasions, my sartorial consultant is a friend of mine who has a complete and absolutely correct knowledge of the rules of formal dress, albeit circa 1930.

So while the men are checking each other out to see if their Hermès tie is more current than the others', or if the lapel is the new Zegna or an altered Cerruti from last season, I feel most safe if I arrive in a three-piece-suit and a bow tie. That way I can't be scornfully accused of being "so last season"; being "so last century" is easier to deal with.

The idea, in other words, is to be so unfashionable that you simply fall off the scale. I also get the odd person congratulating me on winning the snooker championship.

Rejecting the popular notions of what's fashionable, whether it's clothes, accessories, hobbies, and so on, can sometimes be interpreted as the ultimate snobbery. Or showing off, at the very least. Which is ironic, because usually I'm trying to hide.

"There's nothing more fashionable than being anti-fashion," I was once told.

"But I'm not being anti-fashion," I protested. "I'm... extra-fashion. As in outside of."

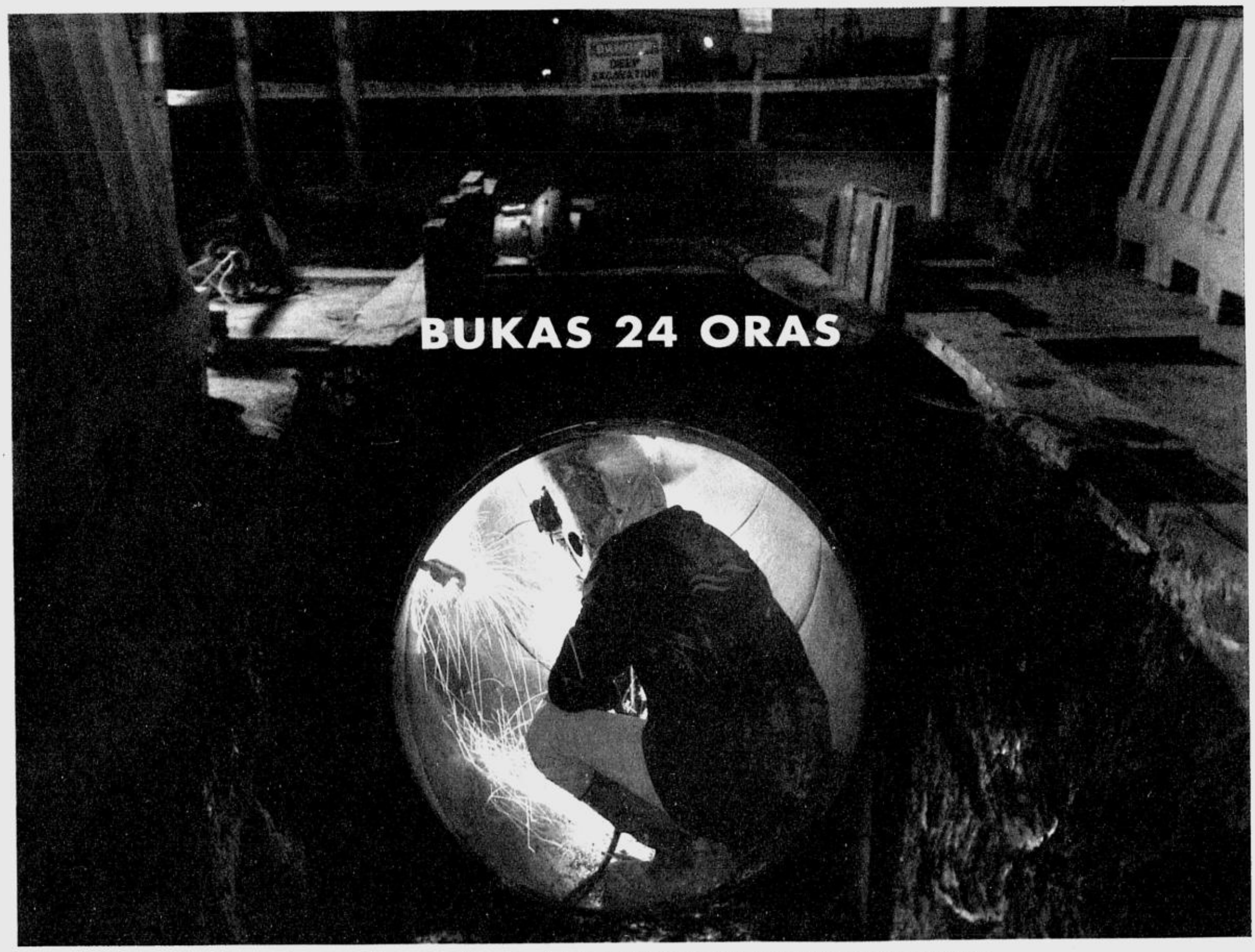
"So you're out of fashion. In other words, unfashionable."

"Okay," I said. "But very out of fashion. As in way out."

He considered. "I suppose that could one day be fashionable."

"Very unfashionable?"

"Very," he promised.



Mga barangay na dati'y ilang oras lang may tubig, ngayon 24 oras nang may tubig.

At mula 24%, naging 90% na ng mga naninirahan sa East Zone* ang nakaranas ng biyaya ng 24-hour water service.

At ngayon, ang biyayang ito ay umaabot na hanggang sa Montalbán, Rizal.

Lahat ng ito'y nangyari dahil sa iba't-ibang water service projects at halos round-the-clock na pagtra-trabaho ng Manila Water, isang Ayala company at concessionaire ng MWSS.

At simula pa lang ito. Sa kanilang ika-7 taon, mas marami pang gagawin ang Manila Water. Ang na-invest na P9 bilyon ay dadagdagan pa para sa 2007, aabot na sa 5 milyong tao sa East Zone ang makakaranas ng tuluy-tuloy na pagdaloy ng tubig. At mas maayos na pagdaloy ng buhay. 24 oras.

Manila Water

Dala ng tubig ay ginhawa.

* Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, malaking bahagi ng Quezon City, San Andres at Sta. Ana sa Manila. Kasama rin dito ang San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, at Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, San Mateo at Montalban sa Rizal.

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Have a merrier Christmas with what you save from your Sun IDD!

Economically, it's been a tough year, but we Filipinos never let hard times stop ourselves from enjoying Christmas. It simply means we need to be more creative and look for better value whenever we can. So, when it comes to IDD rates, it's best to compare. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find that Sun Cellular's IDD rate is only 30¢ per minute to over 200 countries. That's a big 25% savings compared to other networks' IDD rates.

It's the IDD rate you can use and abuse – it allows you to spend real quality talk time with your family and friends abroad. Tell your best friend all the highlights of the Season or even the year past. Let your kids reel off their long Christmas lists to Tita or even allow your Kuya to eavesdrop on the Noche Buena banter. It's really up to you!

Best of all, Sun's 30¢ per minute IDD rate not only means that you can take your time wishing your loved ones a merry Christmas but also have enough money left to spare. Whenever you make an average-length call using Sun Cellular to your relatives and friends abroad, the P22 you save can readily be used to buy extra Christmas cards, ornaments and stocking treats. Or how about giving that money to charity? Your P22 can buy a toy in Divisoria to help bring cheer to an orphan or a notebook needed by an indigent student.

Then, there is always the extra pleasure of using the money left over after making all those IDD calls to buy the most special person in your life an unexpected Christmas present. So go out and get something nice – probably the latest mobile handset powered by Sun Cellular!

So save more with the IDD service you can use and abuse. It's Sun Cellular's way of wishing you a very merry Christmas.

SUN
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Party wear for little girls

YELLOW fairy dress with rainbow tulle skirt and pink spaghetti strap fairy dress (P999.75)

MOMS looking for comfortable and fun modern party wear for their little girls are often disappointed at finding old-style puffed sleeves and voluminous uncomfortable dresses filling up the store racks.

PARTY/ 12

YELLOW-green fairy dress with flower detail

DAVOCOL'S LIGHT IMAGES
Emil Davocol.

The name alone has pedigree. But there are also the awards, including Asia's Best Photograph in 1976. Then the stalwart advertising career, which bagged him in CLIO at one point. Then the credentials, a Master Photographer in title the reputation for 28 years, he was also past President of the Camera Club of the Philippines, the preeminent photographer's club in the country, and an illustrator and graphic designer as well.

And, of course, the pictures. The art, if you will. Which is everything, really. The only credential Emil Davocol needs. It's a cliché to say that artist see the world through the different set of eyes. But it's a cliché that bears repeating in this case. Emil Davocol derives his passion from seeing the world differently, then freezing what sees in time. His eye's, it goes without saying, have not failed him.

Emil Davocol sees the everyday with an unflinching instinct for the poetry within then he draw it out, sometimes in a short of surreal colors, sometimes in stark monochrome but always infusing the mundane with a magic that wasn't there previously.

Light Images is what Emil aptly calls his thriving design shop where his expertise in all the graphic fields he dabbles in has serve the needs of others. In many ways a tribute, it is also the title of his second one-man exhibit.

From December 14 to 28, 2004, Artspace in Glorietta, "Davocols Light Images" will be showcasing Emil Davocol's most recent work.

It is only a testament that his vision and passion as an artist remains undimmed, but it is also a mirror into what Emil Davocol's eye's have been seeing him lately. And it is, needless to say, as 28 years of indelible imagery have proven, a sight that will always be worth seeing. Poetry for the eyes maybe. Or simply just a new way of seeing the world around us.

IMAGES FROM LIGHT: THE ART OF EMIL DAVOCOL
Light and shadow.

This is all an image is. It takes a discriminating eye to see the possibilities in the play o light and shadow. But it takes an artist to extract from it.

Emil Davocol. The name speaks from itself. The awards. The pictures. The Master of Photographer in title of reputation and past President of the Camera Club of the Philippines, Davocol is also an illustrator and graphic designer, his sensibilities crossing over from the one medium to the next.

For the last 28 years, Emil Davocol's life has been consumed by light and shadow. Seeing the possibilities in it. Extracting poetry from it.

"What if?"

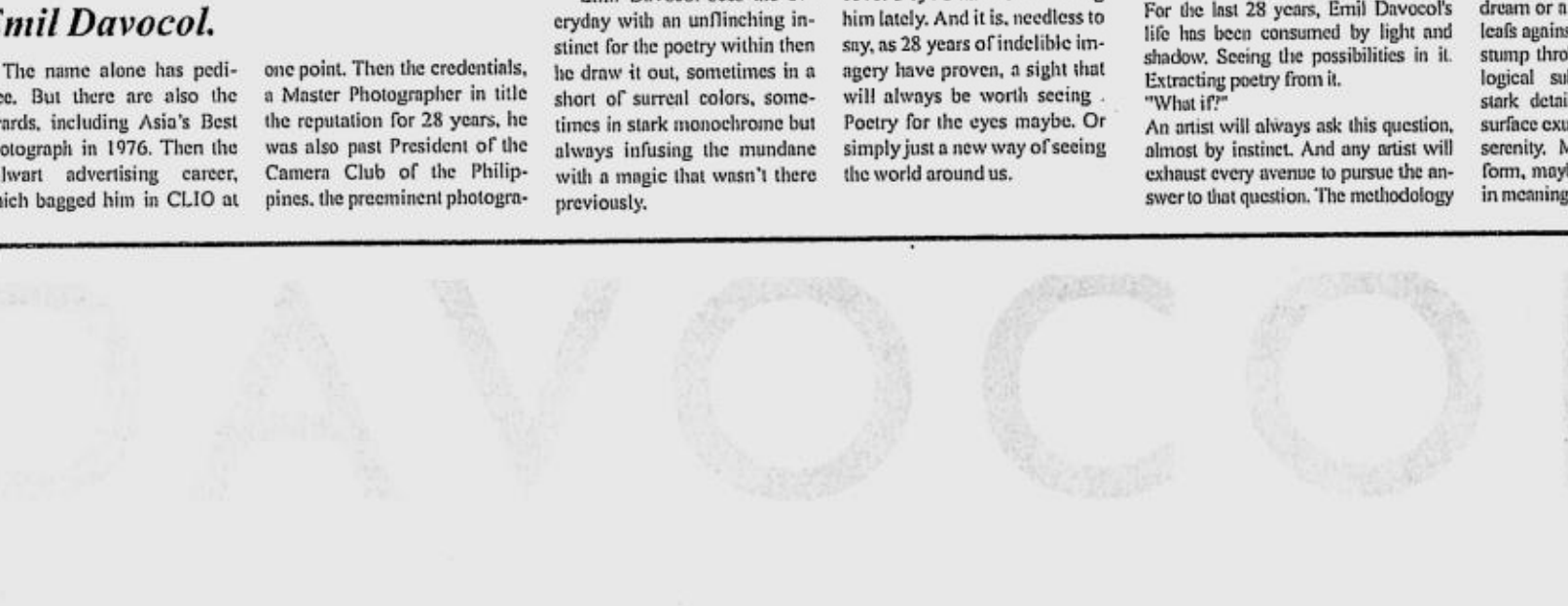
An artist will always ask this question, almost by instinct. And any artist will exhaust every avenue to pursue the answer to that question. The methodology may vary but the intent is the same. To find the unusual to the usual. To see the magic in the mundane.

Davocol's pictures have a deceptive simplicity to them. They avoid clutter. The image is stripped, instead, to its core, its essence, its soul. Then he tweaks it to find new meanings in them. so that a simple pastoral scene feels like fragment from a bucolic dream or a stark golden leafs against a black tree stump throbs with ecological subtexts or a stark detail of a pond surface exudes a zenlike serenity. Minimalist in form, maybe, but never in meaning, it's the point where craft segues into art, it's the "What if?" given shape.

The pursuit of the "What if?" is an ongoing process for Emil Davocol. And from December 14 to 28, 2004, at Artspace Glorietta, he has ask himself the question again. And"Davocol's Light Images", his second one man exhibit, named after his thriving studio, are myriad answers to that question put on display.

Light and shadow. And all its possibilities and poetry.

ADVT



DAVOCOL

EMIL DAVOCOL

Photographer

Illustrator

Graphic Designer

LIGHT IMAGES

A showcase of Emil Davocol's most recent work

December 14-28, 2004
Art Space (Glorietta 4, Makati)

Presented by

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PHOTOGRAPHY LightIMAGES

THE BEST COLOR PRINT PICTURE OF THE YEAR 2004 CAMERA CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES

PURPLE velvet spaghetti strap dress with bolero; purple velvet bodice and organza bouffant skirt with bow; and purple velvet halter dress

BLUE stripe halter dress and blue stripe sleeveless dress with flower detail

BLUE delft spaghetti strap dress with tie and red delft sleeveless dress with tie/ribbon

PINK satin ruffled dress, P649.75; and periwinkle satin long dress with tie and shoulder bag, P699.75

Party wear for little girls

From page 11

The dilemma is solved with the launching of the new partywear brand, Salsa, a clothing label for little girls.

Its designs and silhouettes are international and world-class. In fact, Salsa comes from the same reputable and funky makers of the tried-and-tested brands Freeway, Ensembles, and 22 BC.

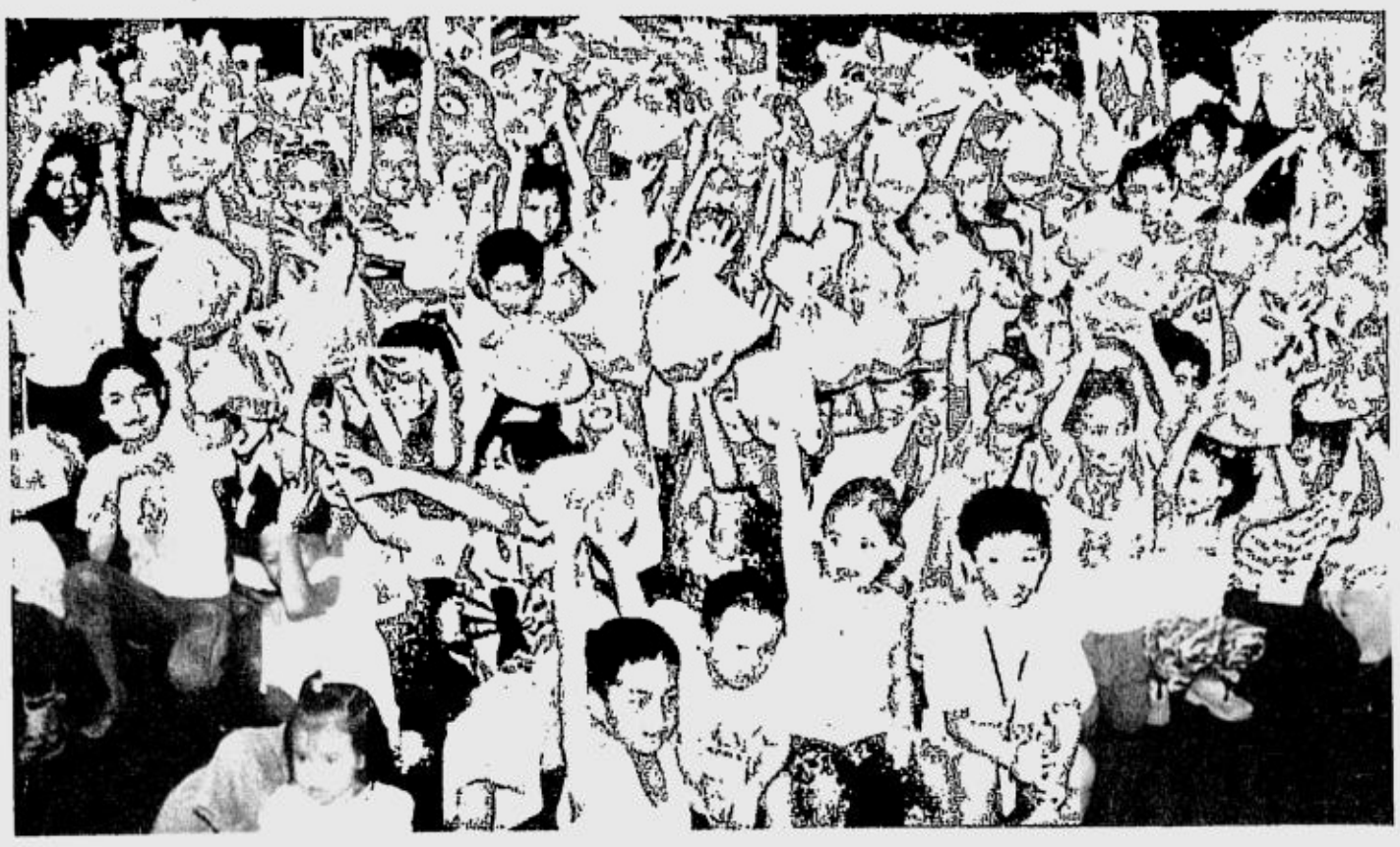
Salsa offers sizes ranging from 1 to 12 and carries a wide collection of pretty party and Sunday wear in comfortable fabrics like velvet, tulle, chiffon, organza, cotton, denim, and satin materials.

Visit Salsa exclusively at the SM Children's Department at the following SM Department Stores: SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Cubao, SM Makati, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Southmall, and SM Bacoor, and soon to be available in SM Pampanga.

RED Cheongsam dress, P699.75

PINAFORE dress with sequined dragonfly detail, P899.75; top with dragonfly detail and beaded pants, P799.75

BLUE stripe halter dress P699.75; blue stripe sleeveless dress with floral appliqué, P799.75; pink stripe spaghetti strap dress with tie, P699.00



PEOPLE helping people. Cutting the ribbon during the Make A Child Happy launch are SM's VP for operations Annie Garcia, Toy Kingdom's Rose Dy Lim, Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippines' Kenneth Yang, Ronald McDonald, SM Foundation's executive directors Debbie Sy and Connie Angeles, and Manila Broadcasting Company's sales director Santi Elizalde.

KIDS from DSWD's Nayon ng Kabataan brought home their share of toys from the Make A Child Happy project.

Holiday treat for poor children

KIDS took center stage when SM Foundation recently launched its Make a Child Happy this Christmas at SM City Manila.

Ongoing until Jan. 2, 2005, this charity project focuses on the combined efforts of SM Foundation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Ronald McDonald House of Charities, Toy Kingdom, and the Manila Broadcasting Company to bring holiday cheer to less fortunate children.

Kids from charitable institutions were present during the opening ceremonies, filling the mall's activity center. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was graced by DSWD's assistant director Honorita Bayudan, Ronald McDonald House of Charities' Kenneth Yang, Manila Broadcasting Company's sales director Santi Elizalde, and Toy Kingdom's Rose Dylim, joined by SM Foundation's Debbie Sy and Connie Angeles and SM Supermalls vice president for Operations Annie Garcia joined them.

Joining the partnership for the first time, Kenneth Yang of the Ronald McDonald House of Charities said he was happy to be part of a project that would bring joy to less fortunate kids.

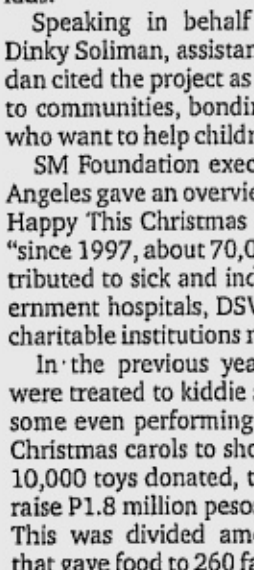
Speaking in behalf of DSWD secretary Dinky Soliman, assistant director Nene Bayudan cited the project as "one way to reach out to communities, bonding the hearts of those who want to help children."

SM Foundation executive director Connie Angeles gave an overview of the Make a Child Happy This Christmas Project, recalling that "since 1997, about 70,000 toys have been distributed to sick and indigent children in government hospitals, DSWD centers, and other charitable institutions nationwide."

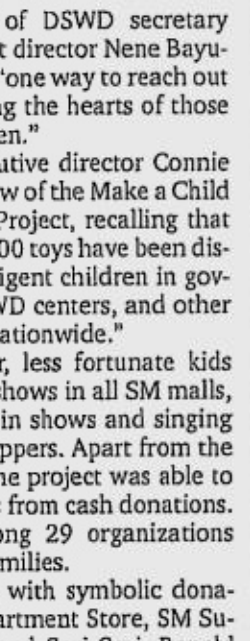
In the previous year, less fortunate kids were treated to kiddie shows in all SM malls, some even performing in shows and singing Christmas carols to shoppers. Apart from the 10,000 toys donated, the project was able to raise P1.8 million pesos from cash donations. This was divided among 29 organizations that gave food to 260 families.

The program ended with symbolic donations from the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Pizza Hut and Sari Sari. Ronald McDonald and SM Foundation then treated the kids to an afternoon of fun.

There are several ways to Make a Child Happy This Christmas. One can donate an old toy, buy a new toy, or make a donation at booths strategically located at all SM Supermalls. Each donation entitles one to a cash coupon from Toy Kingdom.



MANILA Broadcasting Company's sales director Santi Elizalde



DSWD's assistant director Honorita Bayudan

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Eastern Samar, secret jewel

SURFING spot in Ngolos, Guiuan, site of a surfing competition four years ago

By Eric N. Aseo
Contributor

AFTER BORACAY, Cebu and Bohol, Eastern Samar could be the next big tourist destination in the Visayas.

But this one is different. You don't read it in travel mags. No brochures are available about the place. And surfers, awed by the thrilling swells here, talk about it in the Internet in coded exchanges, as if protecting a secret.

There are no travel agencies to arrange your visit to Eastern Samar. No plush hotels and no gourmet restaurants are present in the province. If you want a bed, you can either stay in a homely pension house or build a tent in the beach.

You can only choose to be modest or Spartan here. Nature near its raw and rich history is what the province offers.

Eastern Samar is one of the three provinces of Samar Island. It faces the vast Pacific Ocean and partly covers one of the 200 eco-regions in the world seen by the World Wildlife Fund as crucial in preserving the Earth's biodiversity.

To get to Eastern Samar, you can take the Cebu Pacific or PAL flights to Tacloban City, if you are starting off in Manila, or take the fast craft to Ormoc City and travel by van to Tacloban City, if you are starting off in Cebu.

From Tacloban, you can take the bus for an hour and a half via the Basey-Lawaan road or take the Wright-Taft road and travel for a little more than three hours.

I suggest that you first take the latter. It's a worn-out road, but less traveled these days. As always, roads less traveled tend to bring a lot of surprises. But don't worry, in Eastern Samar, they are positive surprises.

The province got very bad publicity in the past, but it's now relatively peaceful and poses no threat to your security.

Still, be warned: The sites in the province are not for the faint of heart or the physically weak. They are only for daring, tough, true-blooded adventure seekers and lovers of the great outdoors.

Tropical rainforest

After two hours and a half of travel from Tacloban City via the Wright-Taft road, you'll come to a portion of what remains of the Samar forests. For an hour you'll be treated to mixed sights of dense forests, quarried mountains, rivers and streams some hundreds feet below you, birds now rarely seen in towns and cities, and (it won't escape you), sights of the conditions of those who live off the resources of the forests of Samar.

According to the Samar Island Biodiversity Project, this place is part of what is considered one of the 18 Centers of Plant Biodiversity in the country. A total of 2,400 species of flowering plants, including 406 species endemic only to the Philippines and 40 species endemic only to Samar, are found here and in other parts of the island.

These forests also form part of one of the nine Endemic Bird Areas in the Philippines, says SIBP. To date, 197 bird species have been recorded here and in other parts of the island, 50 of them endemic. Among these birds are hornbills and kingfishers. Thirty-nine species of mammals, 25 reptiles and 12 amphibians are also found in the area.

Toward Taft, you will pass by a portion of the forest labeled Philippine Eagle sanctuary. Philippine Eagles are sometimes seen here along with Philippine Cockatoos, Flying Lemurs and Tarsiers, but sights of them are now getting rare.

Like many tropical rainforests in the world, this resource is also being threatened with degradation and its concomitant effect of biodiversity loss. Unsustainable farming practices, rampant small-scale logging, unregulated harvesting of non-timber forest products, hunting and collection of wild life, unregulated quarrying, poorly planned infrastructure projects and mining are the culprits behind this, says SIBP.

But the people of Eastern Samar, along with other Samarnons, are not giving up their habitat without putting up a fight. For years now, they have been pushing for the enactment of a law that will make the forests of Samar a natural park and shield them from further encroachment and destruction.

After experiencing the Samar rainforest by the roadside, you will now pass by the coastal towns of Taft, Sulat and San Julian en route to the capital town of Borongan.

Hidden waterfalls

In Borongan, you can check in at comfy Borongan Pensione or the more private Pebbles and Tides, both offering decent but inexpensive lodging. They also offer affordable meals, but you can opt to eat at nearby restaurants and stalls if you prefer cheaper and simpler food. It is better that you rest in Borongan and prepare yourself for the next day.

The following day, you should try to discover the waterfalls in this municipality which until today is unknown even to many locals.

Pangi Falls is located in Barangay San Gabriel, some 17 km west of Borongan. It can be reached by taking a trike from the town proper and walking upstream for two to three hours along the river.

Pangi Falls is about 180 ft high and cascades to a pool that can accommodate 200-400 persons at the same time. You can spend

EASTERN/J2

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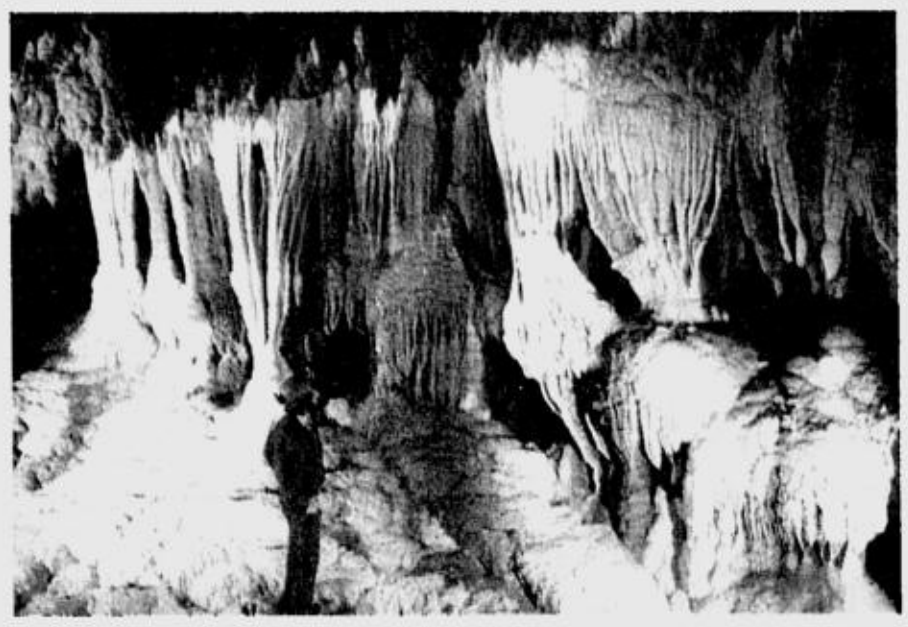
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1735 Series of 2004

Eastern Samar, secret jewel

Unknown to many, this province has much to offer outdoor lovers and history enthusiasts



SPECTACULAR sight in a cave in Suribao

From page J1

the day in the falls and return to Borongan be fore sundown.

The next day you can try Mono Falls, located in Sitio Bagong Barrio, Barangay Pinanag-an, Borongan. It cascades from around 90 ft to a pool of cool water that invites you to plunge in.

To reach Mono Falls, take a trike to Barangay Camada, then ride a motorized dugout canoe to Barangay Pinanag-an and walk to the place for approximately 10 minutes. If you want a double treat, you can walk for another two hours and find the gigantic Tagpuyukan Falls. Tagpuyukan is from the local word *puyuk*, meaning "small monkeys," which are usually seen in the place before sunrise.

Two other falls are found in Borongan. Binalarawan Falls can be reached after a seven-hour hike from Barangay Siha in Borongan. After walking for two hours downstream and another hour upstream of another river, you can find the bigger and more beautiful Habag Falls.

Ironically, some locals have learned of these places only from the website of a German national, Martin Klughardt, who lived in Borongan for three years.

Lawaan in Eastern Samar is also another town famous for its waterfalls, but there could be other waterfalls in this frontier province waiting to be discovered.

Beaches and surfing spots

Don't leave Borongan just yet. For a change, take a trike to San Julian, a town 20 km north, and visit Liliputan Resort. It lies in front of giant rock formations facing the Pacific, and has a deep natural pool surrounded by a reef that protects swimmers from the waves. Staying in Liliputan for a day will rest your body and shape it up for your next destinations—the surfing spots.

In Borongan town proper, you can try the swells at Boulevard Beach. The place is ideal for beginners, but because of the not-so-big swells, skimmers are seen here more often than surfers.

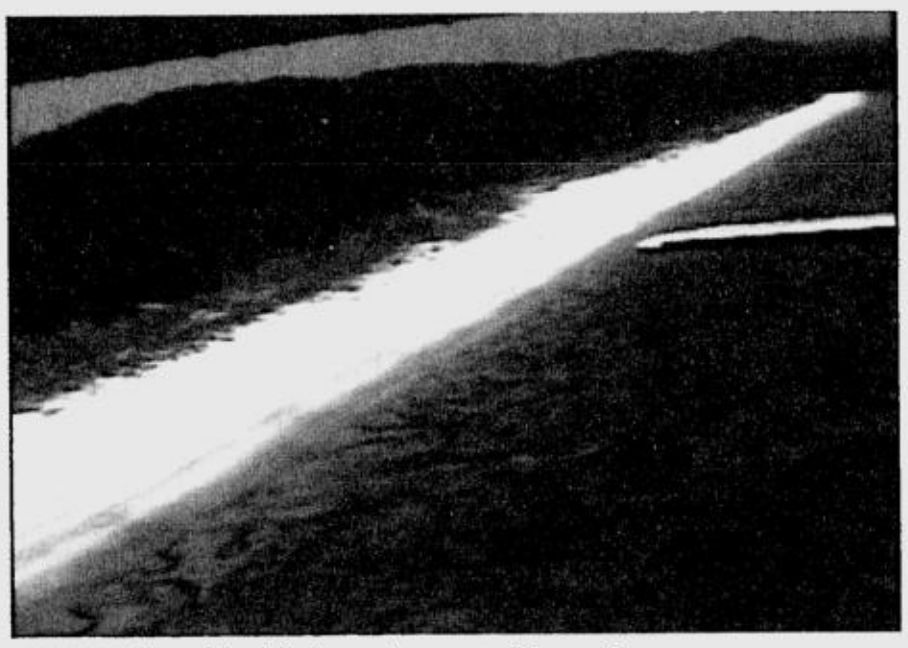
There are other surfing spots in Borongan offering all kinds of breaks both for amateur and seasoned surfers. Depending on your taste and skills, you can try the breaks in Bato, Sabang Suribao, Point Mary, all accessible by trike from the town proper, and those in the nearby islands of Ando and Divinubo. All spots enjoy the tropical background you only see on surfing mags and postcards.

THE 90-FT Mono Falls cascades into a pool of cool water that invites you to plunge in.

At the southern part of the province, Pompei Garcia, an outdoor enthusiast at the Provincial Environment and Tourism Office (Peto), recommends the spots in Barangay Omawas, Maydolong, Minaanod Island in Llorente and Barangay Nagaja in Hernani. Topping them all of course is the surfing spot in Ngolos, Guiuan, site of a surfing competition four years ago, which drew surfers from all over country.

Guiuan also has other spots ideal for surfing, fishing, scuba diving and ordinary outings. But lest you worry where to lay your head on, Guiuan has Tanghay View Inn, located on the seaside and offering a good view of the islands of Tubabao, Manicani and Homonhon.

You can go island hopping if you wish, as there are other islands in Guiuan aside from those three. There is idyllic Calicoan, historic Suluan and Pearl Island, the site of a pearl culture project of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.



SCENIC Calicoan Island, in the southern part of the province

THE UNSPOILED beach at historic Suluan Island

Historical sites

The sea is not always calm during these months. Before conquering the islands, you may want to visit the 16th-century Immaculate Conception Church of Guiuan and marvel at the beautifully hand-carved altar and doors, intact to this day. Don't forget to pray before you leave the church, like Ferdinand Magellan did before he left Spain. He found himself later in the island of Homonhon.

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From gateway to getaway

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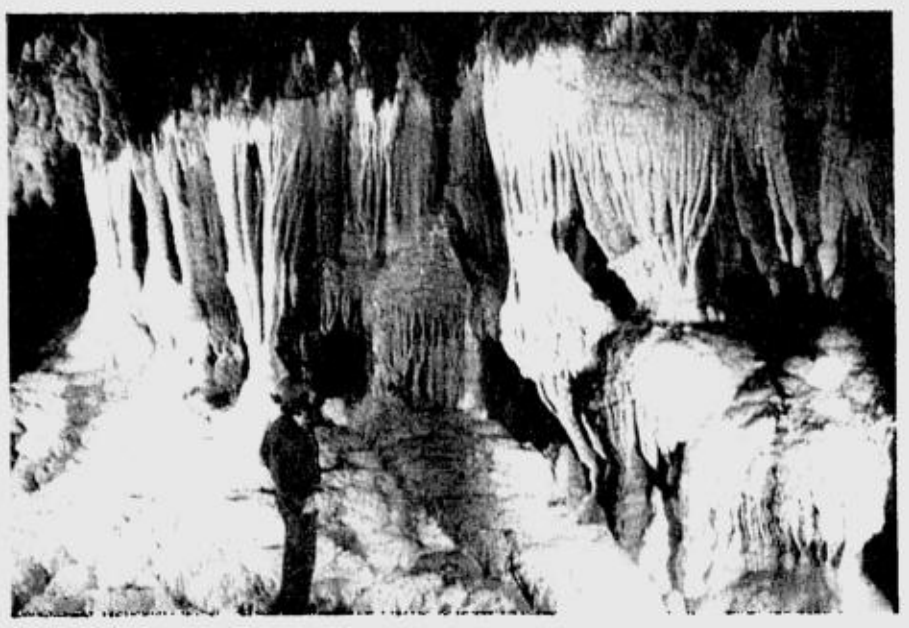
Eastern Samar, secret jewel

Unknown to many, this province has much to offer outdoor lovers and history enthusiasts



SPECTACULAR sight in a cave in Suribao

From page J1

the day in the falls and return to Borongan be fore sundown.

The next day you can try Mono Falls, located in Sitio Bagong Barrio, Barangay Pinanag-an, Borongan. It cascades from around 90 ft to a pool of cool water that invites you to plunge in.

To reach Mono Falls, take a trike to Barangay Camada, then ride a motorized dugout canoe to Barangay Pinanag-an and walk to the place for approximately 10 minutes. If you want a double treat, you can walk for another two hours and find the gigantic Tagpuyukan Falls. Tagpuyukan is from the local word *puyuk*, meaning "small monkeys," which are usually seen in the place before sunrise.

Two other falls are found in Borongan. Binalarawan Falls can be reached after a seven-hour hike from Barangay Siha in Borongan. After walking for two hours downstream and another hour upstream of another river, you can find the bigger and more beautiful Habag Falls.

Ironically, some locals have learned of these places only from the website of a German national, Martin Klughardt, who lived in Borongan for three years.

Lawaan in Eastern Samar is also another town famous for its waterfalls, but there could be other waterfalls in this frontier province waiting to be discovered.

Beaches and surfing spots

Don't leave Borongan just yet. For a change, take a trike to San Julian, a town 20 km north, and visit Liliputan Resort. It lies in front of giant rock formations facing the Pacific, and has a deep natural pool surrounded by a reef that protects swimmers from the waves. Staying in Liliputan for a day will rest your body and shape it up for your next destinations—the surfing spots.

In Borongan town proper, you can try the swells at Boulevard Beach. The place is ideal for beginners, but because of the not-so-big swells, skimmers are seen here more often than surfers.

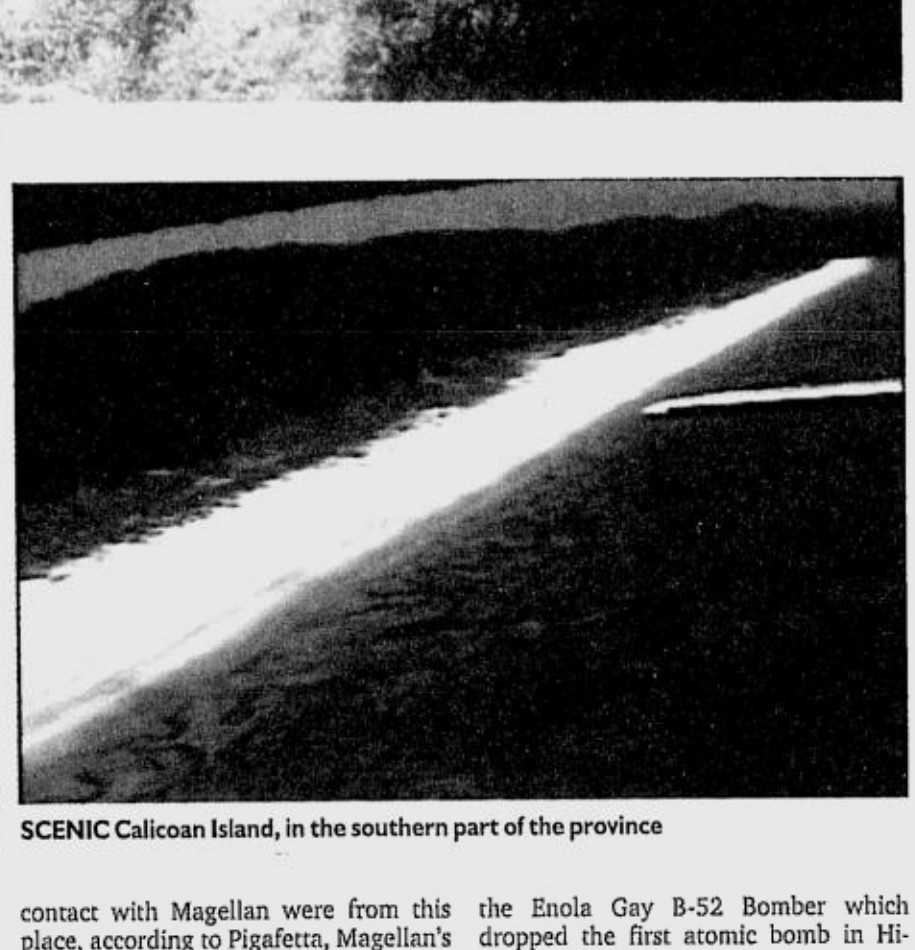
There are other surfing spots in Borongan offering all kinds of breaks both for amateur and seasoned surfers. Depending on your taste and skills, you can try the breaks in Bato, Sabang Suribao, Point Mary, all accessible by trike from the town proper, and those in the nearby islands of Ando and Divinubo. All spots enjoy the tropical background you only see on surfing mags and postcards.

THE 90-FT Mono Falls cascades into a pool of cool water that invites you to plunge in.

At the southern part of the province, Pompei Garcia, an outdoor enthusiast at the Provincial Environment and Tourism Office (Peto), recommends the spots in Barangay Omawas, Maydolong, Minaanod Island in Llorente and Barangay Nagaja in Hernani. Topping them all of course is the surfing spot in Ngolos, Guiuan, site of a surfing competition four years ago, which drew surfers from all over country.

Guiuan also has other spots ideal for surfing, fishing, scuba diving and ordinary outings. But lest you worry where to lay your head on, Guiuan has Tanghay View Inn, located on the seaside and offering a good view of the islands of Tubabao, Manicani and Homonhon.

You can go island hopping if you wish, as there are other islands in Guiuan aside from those three. There is idyllic Calicoan, historic Suluan and Pearl Island, the site of a pearl culture project of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.



SCENIC Calicoan Island, in the southern part of the province

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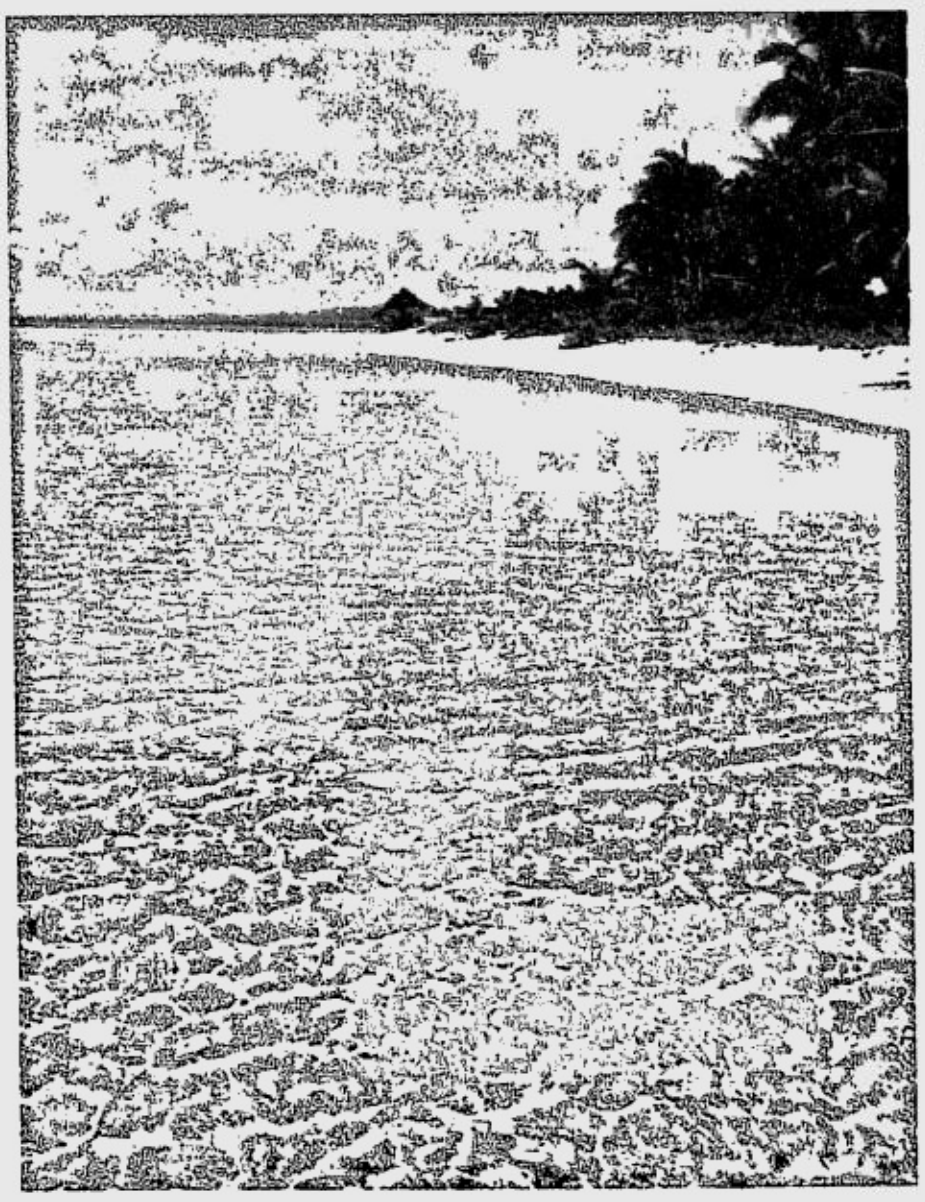

THE UNSPOILED beach at historic Suluan Island

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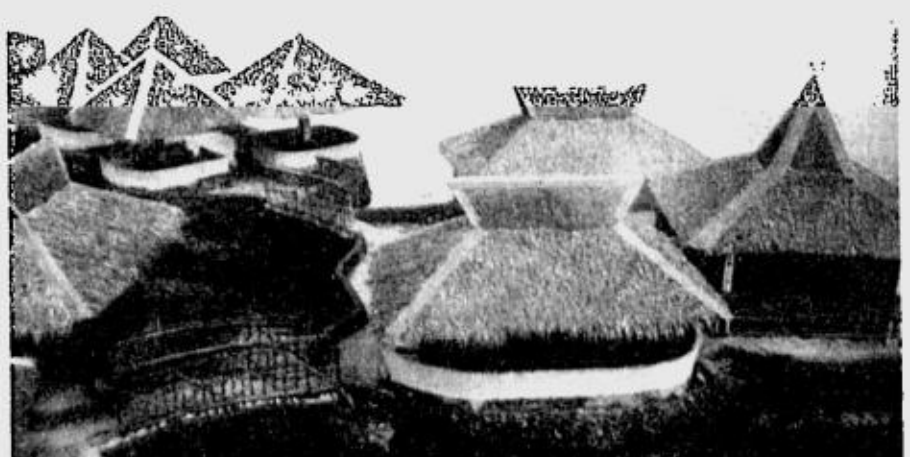

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TRAVELBRIEFS

ONE MILLIONTH PASSENGER
Lawyer Honorato Hermosisima, Jr., became the one millionth passenger of domestic carrier South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR). Hermosisima, who traveled from Camiguin to Cebu, will enjoy unlimited free travel to any SEAIR local destination for one whole year. In photo are (from left) First Officer Dennis Salumbides, Capt. Antonio Santiago, Cebu assistant station manager Capt. Eligio Lacson, Hermosisima, Jr.; Cebu passenger sales executive Tobe Quimpo, sales and marketing manager Shiella Cabi-ao, Visayas & Mindanao sales and marketing manager Anne Tan, and Cebu passenger sales executive Maricar Marasigan.

For nature-trippers

THE CLUBHOUSE and Forest Trail Lake offers a number of ways to enjoy nature at Leisure Farms, Lemery, Batangas.

On the highest hill of the rolling terrain of Leisure Farms is clubhouse that overlooks the village and other parts of the town.

At a lower level, birdwatchers, reptile enthusiasts, and tree lovers will find what they are looking for at the Forest Trail Lake. The 500-m path runs alongside a stream.

Among the birds that had been seen at the lake are white-collared kingfisher, crested serpent eagle, spotted dove, Philippine coucal, swiftlet, blue-tailed bee-eater, Pacific swallow, yellow-vented bulbul, Asian glossy starling, and jungle crow.

Keep your eye out for the Luzon water monitor lizard, green-crested lizard, flat-tailed gecko, common sun skunk, yellow-bellied puddle frog, four-lined tree frog, Brahminy blind snake, reticulated python, oriental whip snake, painted bronzeback snake, and the common wolfsnake. Insects also abound like dragonflies, butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles.

Leisure Farms is a development project of Landco Pacific Corporation. Call 8093853 or visit www.landcopacific.com.

December to remember

TAAL Vista Hotel has a bunch of holiday activities in store for guests the whole month of December.

Kids can meet and get special treats from Santa Claus 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every weekend of the month at Santa's Corner. Adults can relax at the Lobby Lounge and enjoy a *merienda cena* consisting of favorite Filipino delicacies while listening to a children's choir sing Christmas carols for P200 net*, 3-6 p.m.

Christmas dinner, specially prepared by guest chef Mikel Arruiz Dec. 24-25 will be served at the Café on the Ridge. The set menu comes with a glass of wine (P650 net*, 6-11 p.m.). The café will also be hosting the Holiday Feast Buffet on Christmas morning featuring the season's best dishes (P750 net*, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.).

Kids can join Santa at the Lobby Lounge for Kiddie Holiday Hooray.

During the New Year Blast dinner buffet guests can enjoy a fireworks display with the Taal Volcano for backdrop. Figure 8 Band will play dance music.

For ticket prices, call 7513088/89 or 8864325 or (046)4131000. Visit www.taalvista.com or www.fuegohotels.com.

Wintering in Manila

HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila offers a winterscape Christmas getaway for the whole family this season. Take advantage of the hotel's Winter Holiday Room package. Book two succeeding nights for only P8,000++ and get the third night free. Package includes family deluxe room accommodation, buffet breakfast for two adults and two kids, plus a chance to bring home Winter Bratz dolls, Knex, Gundam and Zoids toys. First 25 bookers will get two movie passes to Robinson's Movieworld or a 30 percent off on all local rates when booking any of the hotel's suites.

The promo runs Dec. 1-Jan. 1. Packages are valid only for local residents. Advance reservation is required. Call 6337111 loc. 7402.

Meanwhile, have a gourmet adventure at Holiday Inn Galleria. Savor the holidays with such treats as freshly baked *Puto Bumbong* and *Bibingka*, other Christmas goodies and Holiday Chill drink the whole month of December.

Special buffet meals will be prepared for Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day lunch, New Year's Eve dinner and New Year's day lunch at Raphael Café-Restaurant. Have all the wine and beer you can drink as you welcome the New Year in the Countdown Party at the Monet Bar Lounge. Call 6337111 loc. 7440 or 7416.

Family vacation package

HOTEL PonteFino in Batangas City offers a vacation package for the whole family until Jan. 15.

An overnight stay in a Premium room is only P2,400 net for two adults and two children under 10 years old inclusive of complimentary use of the hotel swimming pool, children's playground and game room. Also available are special Christmas Family and Barkada packages.

Several holiday activities have been lined up for families—special Christmas Day Buffet, New Year's Eve poolside party complete with a band and fireworks display and a New Year's Day buffet featuring Batangas cuisine.

A new addition to Hotel PonteFino is the air-conditioned tent, suitable as venue for weddings, debuts and other events. Regular guests can avail of the new Fino Card for a P5,000 annual membership fee. Card holders will get a 10 percent discount on food and beverage in all outlets, overnight stay for two adults in a premium room with gourmet breakfast and unlimited use of the swimming pool, badminton courts and game room for two people. A Fino member who books a second overnight stay gets a free massage. Hotel PonteFino is at Pastor Village, Gulod Labac, Batangas City. Call 4372103, 4213466 or (043)7233466. Visit www.pontefino.com.ph.

Follow the sun

PUERTO del Sol in Bolinao, Pangasinan, is offering exciting holiday packages.

The three-day, two-night Christmas Special Package, Dec. 24-26, includes parking space; welcome drinks; accommodation at Mansion Villa, Bahay Kubo or Casitas; Noche Buena meal, brunch, buffet dinner and breakfast; special gifts for kids, entertainment on Christmas eve, and free use of hotel facilities like swimming pool, kiddie pool, children's playground, outdoor jacuzzi and beach, shower and change rooms. It also includes a 10 percent discount for purchases at the souvenir shop.

The three-day, two-night New Year package, Dec. 31-Jan. 2, and four-day, three-night package, Dec. 30-Jan. 2, include free entrance and parking; welcome drinks; accommodation at Mansion Villa, Bahay Kubo or Casitas; Media Noche meal, brunch, buffet dinner and breakfast; special gifts for kids; free use of all hotel facilities and a 10 percent discount on items at the souvenir shop.

Puerto del Sol is managed by Genesis Resorts and Hotels. Call 6378963, 6352547 or 6312861.

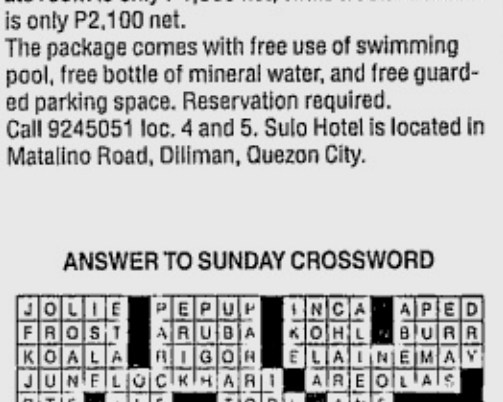
Special room rates

THE SULO Hotel offers special room rates until Jan. 9. An overnight stay in a standard or moderate room is only P1,800 net, while a deluxe room is only P2,100 net.

The package comes with free use of swimming pool, free bottle of mineral water, and free guarded parking space. Reservation required.

Call 9245051 loc. 4 and 5. Sulo Hotel is located in Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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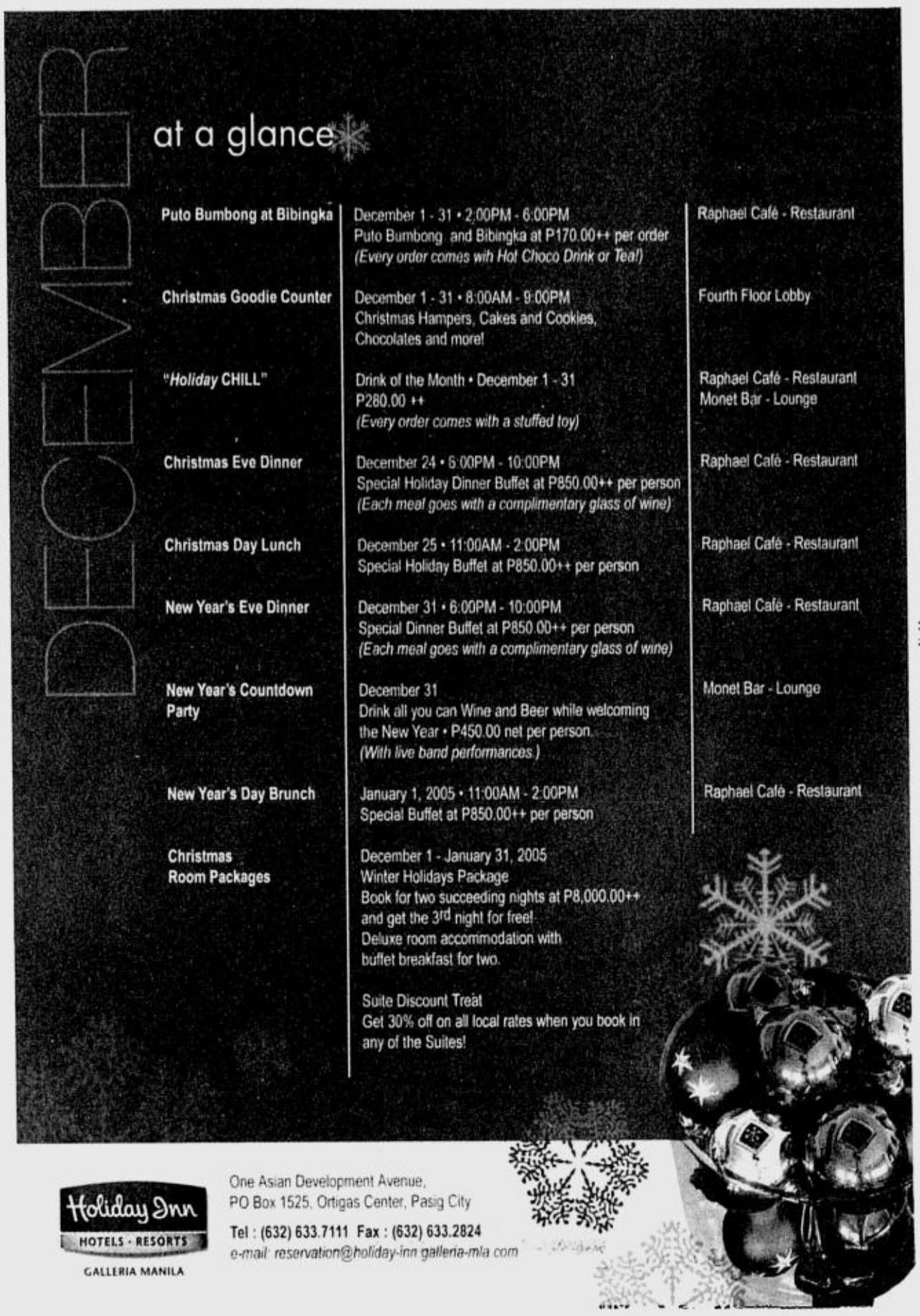
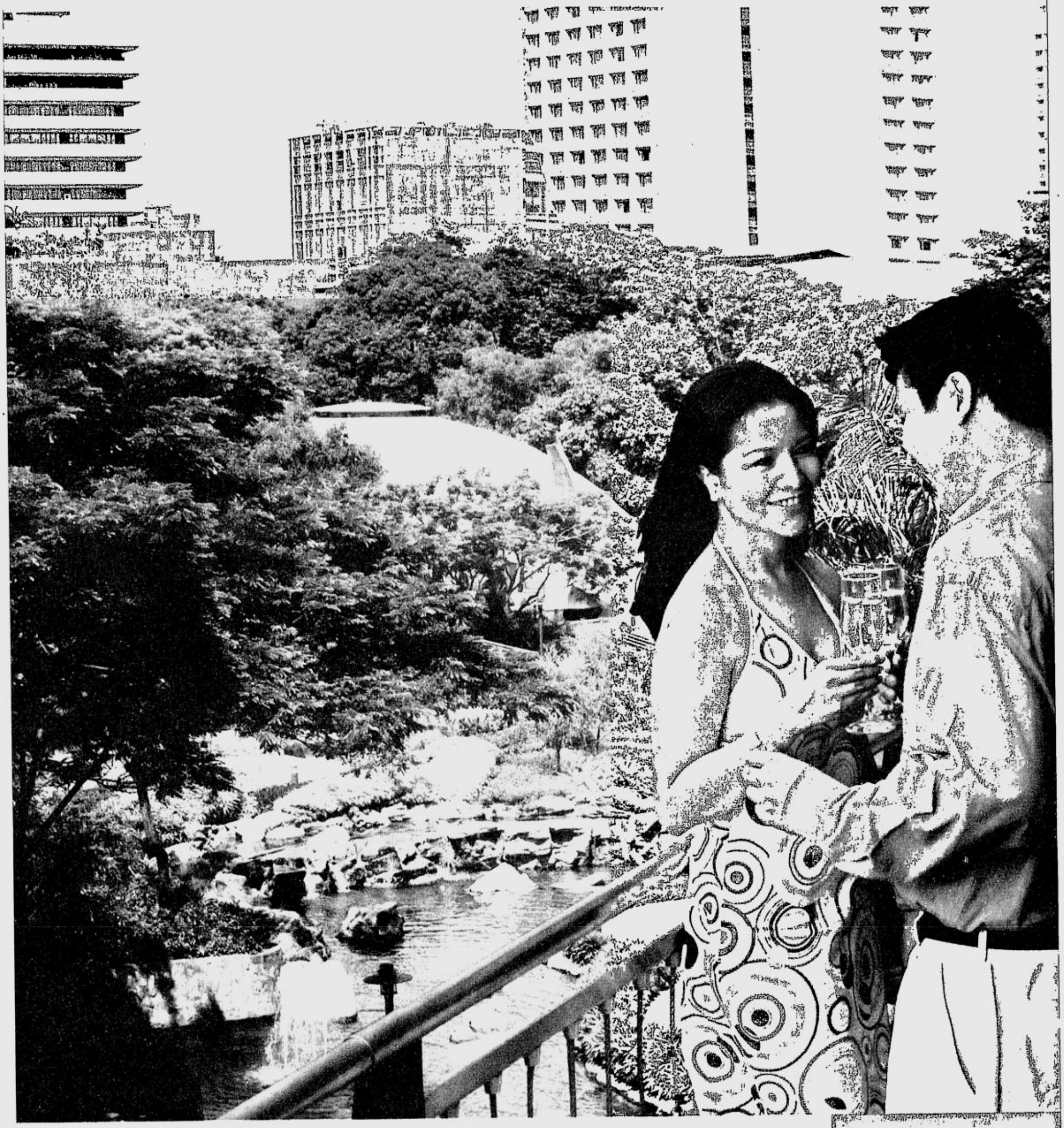
See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City



Coming home never felt this sweet.



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Now, The Residences at Greenbelt offers not only unmatched luxury but generosity as well. Purchase one of its 3-bedroom units on or before December 31, 2004 and enjoy a special bonus. Either avail of a 2-night 3-day stay at a 2-bedroom unit of the Oakwood Premier every year for 3 years, or enjoy a special payment package: 10% down payment, 20% monthly amortization, 70% lump sum, and save on 7.5% interest.

As an added bonus, balikbayans who will visit our model units will receive a special gift!

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Tryst with Joshua Payne, and what it means to give

NEVER too big for Chanel. In W magazine's December issue, elephants are dressed in couture.

The handsome tenor gave me a letter with the most beautiful words

FASHION for elephants. Ever felt like a pachyderm when it comes to fashion (think: too big and nothing fits), or that fashion has gone over the top that it has literally gone to the elephants?

Well, in W magazine's case, it has. In an unprecedented and epic-proportion photo shoot, the magazine asked top designers Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, Nicholas Ghesquiere, Helmut Lang, Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton and Dolce & Gabanna to dress these lovable creatures. Even shoe king Manolo Blahnik got into the picture with his lace-up shoes (his trademark stilettos wouldn't work in this shoot).

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

So how do you dress an elephant? They got the measurements from the trainers and had to create 5 ft hats, yards of fabric, huge hoop earrings and at least nine persons to dress them up. According to W insiders the elephants enjoyed the work and that they even behaved better than some models. Check out W magazine December 2004 issue in newsstands now.

Must-go-to Mexican fast food—Taco Bell at Gateway Mall Araneta Center. When I first heard that Taco Bell was returning to the Philippines (it closed in the late '80s) , I started dreaming of its fantastic burritos and quesadillas. There really isn't a great Mexican restaurant in the city anymore. I miss the days when Tia Maria and Jalisco were the "in" places to eat and drink.

One Sunday, I went to the new Gateway Mall (the development around the Araneta Center is excellent!) and was surprised to see a lot of Makati denizens (I had never seen so many Explorers and Expeditions) chomping away at Taco Bell's offerings.

I had my favorites—the steak quesadillas and grilled stuffed burrito. I SMS'd my friends that I was at Taco Bell and left the place ordering more than I consumed. Taco Bell, located at the new Gateway Mall (next to the Araneta Coliseum), is worth the trip and extra calories.

Must-have books—Vanity Fair's Oscar Night. Now that I got my other must-have book, Tom Ford (a gift given by Lucy Gomez), the next one on my list is Vanity Fair's "Oscar Night."

The book captures the very exclusive and glamorous Oscar Night, from the first-ever Academy Awards in 1929 to the Vanity Fair gala in 2004. There are more than 500 photographs—from those of Elizabeth Taylor and Gloria Swanson to those of Warren Beatty, John Travolta, Brad Pitt and Nicole Kidman.

For those who can't get enough of nostalgia, Hollywood and beautiful photographs, this is perfect to give and receive for the holidays.

The height of cool. Nothing looks cooler than someone riding a Ducati motorcycle (think: "Mission Impossible 2" with Tom Cruise). If you don't have one, then a great alternative is the Ducati leather jacket. Crafted in the finest Italian leather, the jacket is fitted and done in a retro style, which means buttoned collar, zippered sleeves and the all-im

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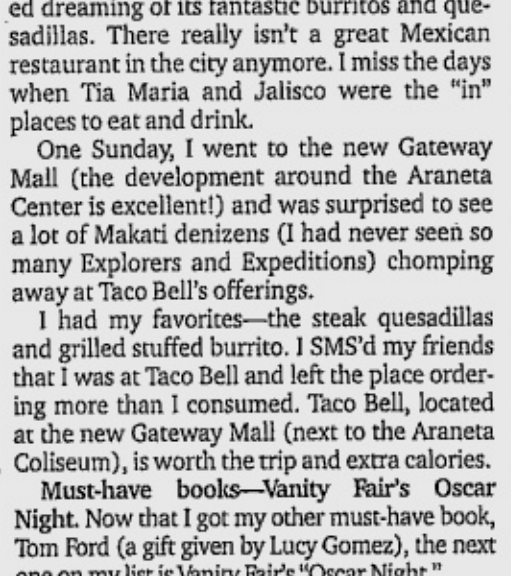

TACO Bell returns. Everyone's favorite Mexican fast food is now at Gateway Plaza at the Araneta Center, Cubao.

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Dec 8 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30am - 7p | Dec 8 - 14 | Dec 25 | Departing/Arrival | Dec 8 - 23
Dec 15 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30am - 7p | Dec 15 - 21 | Dec 26 | Departing/Arrival | Dec 15 - 23
Dec 22 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30am - 7p | Dec 22 - 23 | Dec 27 | Departing/Arrival | Dec 22 - 23
Dec 23 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30am - 7p | STORE CLOSED | Dec 28 | Departing/Arrival | Dec 23
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Jan 5 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 10 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 5
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Jan 10 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 15 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 10
Jan 11 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 16 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 11
Jan 12 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 17 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 12
Jan 13 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 18 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 13
Jan 14 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 19 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 14
Jan 15 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 20 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 15
Jan 16 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 21 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 16
Jan 17 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 22 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 17
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Jan 20 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 25 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 20
Jan 21 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 26 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 21
Jan 22 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 27 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 22
Jan 23 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 28 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 23
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Jan 25 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Jan 30 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 25
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Jan 27 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Feb 1 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 27
Jan 28 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Feb 2 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 28
Jan 29 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Feb 3 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 29
Jan 30 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Feb 4 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 30
Jan 31 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Feb 5 | Departing/Arrival | Jan 31
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Sep 13 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 18 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 13
Sep 14 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 19 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 14
Sep 15 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 20 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 15
Sep 16 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 21 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 16
Sep 17 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 22 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 17
Sep 18 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 23 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 18
Sep 19 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 24 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 19
Sep 20 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 25 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 20
Sep 21 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 26 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 21
Sep 22 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 27 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 22
Sep 23 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 28 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 23
Sep 24 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 29 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 24
Sep 25 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30 - 7p | | Sep 30 | Departing/Arrival | Sep 25
Sep 26 | 8:30am - 7pm | 8:30

UNDP'S Debbie Landey, BPI's Gigi Montinola and Joey Tence

JEANNIE (second from left) and Katrina Goulbourn (right) with Gwennaelle and Gwendolyn Ruias

An exhibit of photography and fashion

JULIE Manning, Amkor Technology's Mike Petrucci , HSBC's Warner Manning and Frances Lim

A COCKTAIL party was held recently for the opening exhibit at Silk Cocoon boutique of the fashion images by Italian photographer Giampiero Gastaldi.

The event was attended by members of the diplomatic circle, the French community, business executives and others.

The framed photos were set up on easels alongside mannequins displaying the creations of Jeannie Goulbourn, who hosted the event, and her daughter Katrina at the New World Renaissance Hotel's Japanese garden.

Wine was provided by Tita Trillo and the hors d'oeuvres were done by Rosa Feist of Australian Quality Foods.

The photographs were from two different collections of Silk Cocoon and portraits of some of Manila's best-known women. Gastaldi photographed his subjects in a studio at the Sea Wind Resort in Boracay. Among those photographed were Chin Chin Gutierrez, Sen. Jamby Madrigal and Judy Ann Santos.

The women wore jewelry by Wynn Wynn Ong. Travel to Boracay was made possible by Corporate Air.

Gastaldi has had more than 30 years experience as a photographer, working with international labels like Fendi, Bulgari and Swarovski.

Silk Cocoon is at New World Renaissance Hotel Shopping Arcade in Makati. Call 8116856.

GIAMPIERO Gastaldi and Chin Chin Gutierrez

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — PEOPLE

ACROSS
1 "Tomb Raider" star Angelina
6 Invigorate
11 Ancient Andean
15 Imitated
19 Tiny ice needles
20 Caribbean resort
21 German honcho Helmut
22 Hamilton's dueling rival
23 Aussie "bear"
24 Harshness
25 "Ishtar" director
27 "Lost in Space" actress
30 Rings of color
31 ACLU concerns: Abbr.
32 Suffix with project
33 Whig's rival
35 Response to a ques.
36 Building supporter
39 "Dobie Gillis" actress
45 Yearn (for)
48 Braying beasts
50 Choral piece
51 Zone
52 — and fauna
54 "The — of Pooh"
55 Nigeria's cont.
56 Kenobi of "Star Wars"
58 Pulitzer winner for the play "Fences"
62 Getting there
64 They follow dos
65 Princess Irritant
66 "Dr. No" novelist Fleming
67 Genetic molecule
68 R.E. Lee et al.
69 Gomez and Morticia's daughter
73 Swerve
75 Block up
76 Jr.'s son, sometimes
77 401(k) kin
78 Petrol
81 Second-brightest constellation member
83 "I Married a Witch" co-star
86 Schoolbag item
87 Broadcaster in over 40 langs.
89 Baseballer Durocher
90 121 Across shrine
91 Falco of "The Sopranos"
92 "— of Divorcement"
94 Snares, e.g.
97 Help a hood
98 Flamboyant evangelist of the WWI era
101 Bends down
103 Cries of wonder
104 Smelting waste
105 Sci-fi vehicle
107 By way of
110 Trusted adviser to Washington
114 Sheree J. Wilson's "Dallas" role
116 "Dragnet" sergeant
120 Louvre locale
121 Laredo locale
122 Cassini of couture
123 Three threes
124 Call to mind
125 Dancer Castle
126 "Gee whiz!"
127 Flip out
128 Force units
129 Officer-to-be

DOWN
1 Founding ed. of "George" magazine
2 "In —?" (poker query)
3 Bank offerings
4 Gilligan's confines
5 And others, in footnotes
6 UPS deliveries
7 Composer Satie
8 "That reeks!"
9 WWII sub
10 Pet shop squawker
11 1950s prez
12 Vincent Lopez's theme song
13 Blatant pretense
14 One who estranges
15 Son of Eve
16 Cougar
17 Times gone by
18 Arid
26 Apt to pry
28 Pueblo pot
29 Novelist Capote
34 "Oh — little faith!"
36 Lima locale
37 Italian wine city
38 Interest in true facts
40 Hair unit
41 Forgoes
42 Actor Stu
43 Inclines
44 "Blasted!"
45 Way out there
46 Puzzle part
47 Porkers
49 "'Tis a pity!"
53 Slander
57 She's the boss
59 Rocker Nugent
60 "A Fish Called —"
61 Studio alert
63 Diameter halves
67 NFL team
69 Sneaky sort
70 Magic Johnson's given name
71 Surrender
72 Pigskin path
73 "Aida" composer
74 Internet sales
78 Snatch
79 Very top
80 Fired
81 English TV channel, with "the"
82 Refuse holders
83 "Deck the Halls" syllables
84 Trounce
85 "'Tis a pity!"
88 Part of REO
93 Transported to school en masse
95 Salon foams
96 Downy
99 "— move"
100 Talked shrilly
102 In rhyme
105 Turkey topper
107 Angered
108 Pointless
109 Good thing
110 Alone
111 Shirts with slogans
112 D-I linkup
113 Granny
115 Element #26
116 Akin to
117 Wedding dress designer Wang
118 Go for a run
119 "Uh-huh"

answer on page J3

SEVRINE Miailhe and Gerard Huon

ARGENTINIAN Ambassador Mario Schuff and Tessie Luz

MARGA and Bianca Locsin

BELGIAN Ambassador Christian Tanghe and Gul Tanghe

Fashion items on sale

ISLANDS Souvenirs Inc. holds Signal No. 50! until Dec. 19 in all Islands Souvenirs boutiques. The week-long sale offers a 50-percent discount on all items.

Islands Souvenirs' destination shirts, trendy beach shorts, cute slip-ons, colorful caps, striking mugs, fashionable necklaces, and other apparel and accessories are sure to make Christmas gift-giving more exciting.

As the recipient of World Class Retailer of the Year for three years, Islands Souvenirs was inducted to the Hall of Fame for Outstanding Filipino Retailer.

FUNKY gift items at 50-percent off during the week-long Islands Souvenirs' "Signal No. 50!" sale

Tryst with Joshua Payne, and what it means to give

From page K1

portant Ducati patches. The all-important question then comes: Where to wear it? It's perfect for our December to January months and for travel. Ducati is sold at Rustan's Department Store.

On being a groupie. Joshua Payne came, went and made a huge impact in Manila. I was privileged to spend time with him and his team. They were the nicest and unaffected bunch of musicians I ever met. Tatler gave him a dinner and I interviewed him for "Look who's talking" so in that time I was able to observe a man with great heart and soul.

Last Sunday he performed at the Meralco Theater and his voice was incredible. It was sad that the place was not filled up.

It was difficult to get tickets. Thanks to David Nugent, who gave me his tickets, or else I would have sat near the wall.

The day of Payne's departure I had lunch with him along with Rhoda Campos and Mons Tantoco. I brought him around to do some last-minute shopping for his girlfriend and folks back in Nashville.

As a parting shot, he gave me a letter with the most beautiful words. If all things push through he will be coming back again next year to captivate us with his beautiful voice. For those of you who were not able to catch him, his CD is being sold at all record outlets and you simply must get one.

Next season's colors. If you are looking for what the major statement in fashion next year is, then it's best we start with color. This year all shades of green and violet were at the forefront. In 2005 the major colors are blue (primarily aqua) and yellow. So if you are looking for a new look and need that change, then start stocking up on these since they will be the "it" colors.

Giving with purpose. There are 13 more days to Christmas and what's supposed to be one of the most festive holidays of the year can also be the most stressful. It has slowly sunk in me that as I grow older, this is one holiday that's all but... a holiday. What with the traffic, the parties, shopping and gift lists that drive everyone batty. The pressure is added when you receive presents from people whom you are not so close to and, in the spirit of the season, feel obliged to reciprocate.

Watching an episode of "Oprah" changed my take on all these things. She relayed the reason she does not stress out during the holidays is because she gives with purpose. She gives to those she is moved to give and one that will be joyfully received. It can be a handwritten note, a telephone call or like the time she gave those cars to her audience. (By the way, the people who received the cars were picked because they needed the cars.)

So here's the point to all this. As we all know, giving is always better than receiving. But the most important aspect of giving is the motive of the heart. It has to be meant and with purpose. When people give gifts it is not supposed to be because they are expecting something in return.

So this year give purposefully and with a lot of heart and thought. You do not have to reciprocate or give the whole *barangay*. I am likewise not trying to shirk from my obligations or be *kuripot*. One realizes that to have purpose and meaning is much more important than just doing the motion. It may be something inexpensive, but you know will be appreciated.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

MUST-HAVE book: Vanity Fair's Oscar Night

THE HEIGHT of cool. Ducati leather jacket available at Rustan's department store

THE COLOR of things to come. Say goodbye to green and hello to aqua.

Kelly Gerona in Calvin Klein Collection at the Calvin Klein Spring 2005 show (left) and at the Met's Costume Institute gala (right)

Go Christmas Shopping With The Stars!

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December 1 to December 23, 2004.

(Registration closes at 2:00 AM)

Concert Schedules:

December 8 4PM

Acoustic Jive
Ferdie
2nd Call Band
Jenny Miller
Angeline Aguilar
Go Girls dancers
E-Male dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Janel

December 11 4PM

Karyll
D'Bodies
Minstrels band
1728 Acoustic band
Melissa Ricks
Raphael Martinez
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Chocoleit & Ate Gay

December 12 4PM

Rachel Ann Go
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 18 4PM

Jed Madela & Prime Council
Mocha & Spin Band
Cherry Lou
Janel
Go Girls dancers
E-Male Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

December 19 4PM

Sarah Geronimo
Mark Bautista
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 22 4PM

Sarah Geronimo
Mark Bautista
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 23 4PM

Christian Bautista
OJ Mariano
Oona R & B
Roxanne & Joross
Viva Hot Babes
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

Under RA 9174, Balikbayans and OFWs arriving between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15 can shop within 30 days from the date of arrival.

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addict Caller RingTunes

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TITLE	VOICED BY	RING ID
In or Out	Brent Javier	101856
Christmas Shopping	Nicole Hernandez	101844
Spread Some Cheer	Juddha Poola	101850
Santa Baby	Maike Evers	101853
Go Kart Ride	Matteo Guidicelli	101847

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Dial 1513 and follow voice instructions

To send a Caller Ringtune to a friend
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PREMIER hair and makeup artist Patrick Rosas

FOR A DRAMATIC evening wedding, Rosas suggests an opulent assortment of blooms in a variety of shades. He purposely uses a pink-lilac lip color to contrast the deeper scarlet hues of the flowers.

A shower of Rosas petals

Top hair and makeup artist Patrick Rosas is in favor of fresh springtime blooms for the 2005 bride

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

EVERYTHING'S coming up Rosas for next year's brides as this master hair and makeup artist pushes petals to the forefront of 2005's bridal hairstyle trend.

"A woman plus flowers—can you think of a more romantic look?" asks Patrick Rosas (tel. 0918-9103282; 7289525) passionately in a mixture of English and Filipino. "It's very feminine, too."

Of course, the bridal posy is a given. What Rosas has in mind is chucking rhinestone tiaras and faux jewels as bridal headdresses, in favor of the more organic and fresh springtime blooms for the 2005 bride.

"It's returning to nature," he notes. "I've been using rhinestones for years. They're passé."

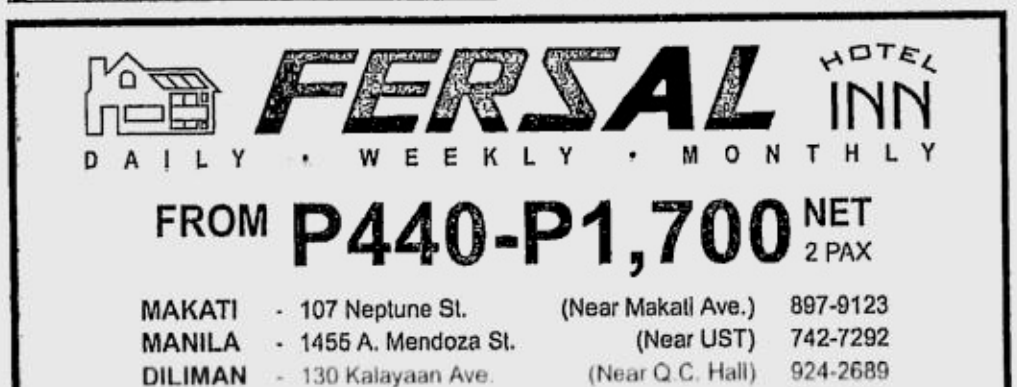
Jewels and crystal beads should now be confined to the bridal gown, according to him. And unless the hairpiece is part of the bride's family's estate jewels, it should be tossed as far away from her wedding-day ensemble.

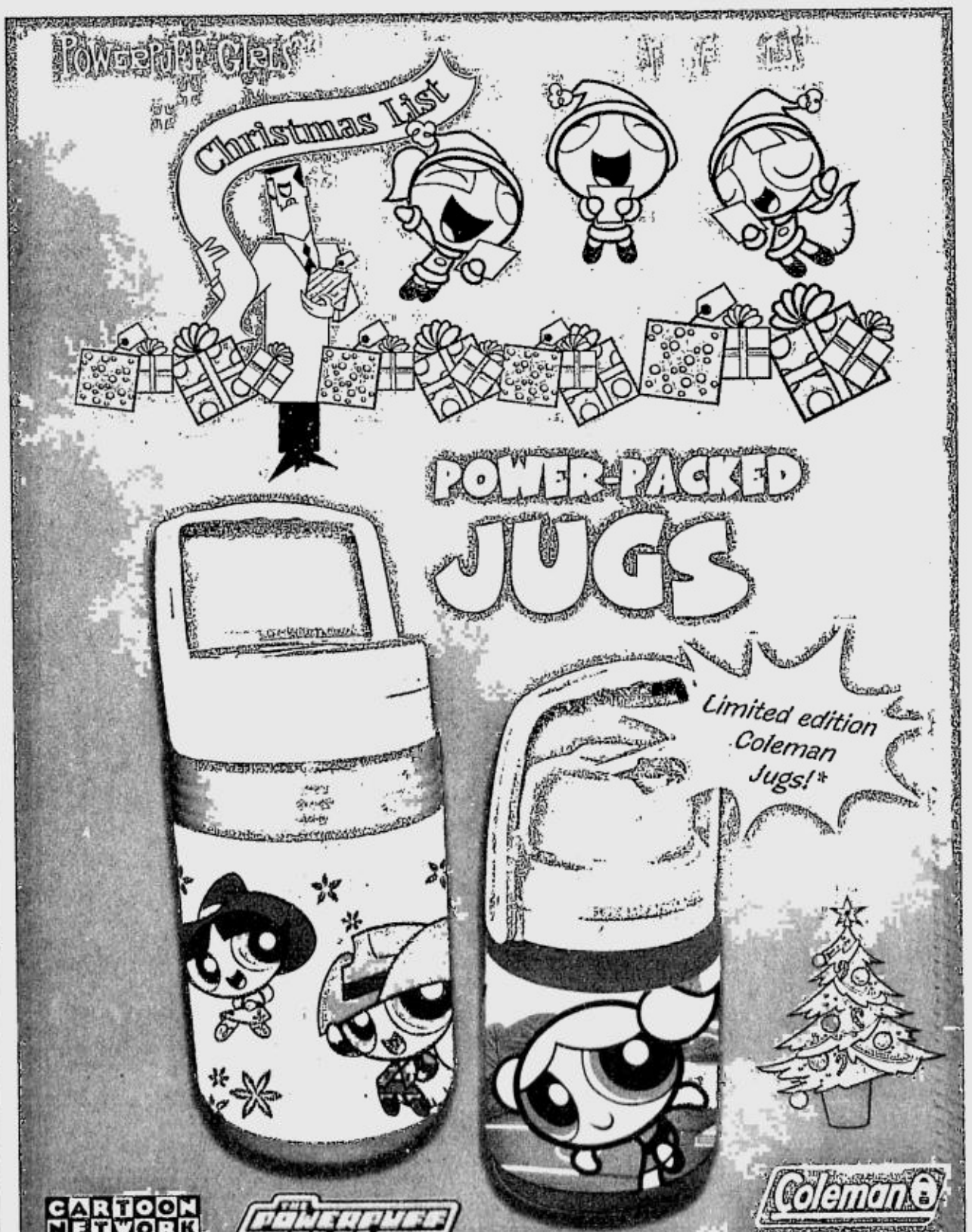
Trend-setting looks

With his creative team—Marlon Suarez, Noel Jimenez and Rey Arciaga—Rosas executes trend-setting floral looks that 2005 brides can take cue from.

The images, dubbed "Petal Pusher," will be exhibited on Jan. 22-23, 2005, in what is

A SHOWER/ L2





MIXING greens with bright-colored flowers, like these yellow liliums and lilium buds, is another alternative for the evening bride.

A shower of Rosas petals

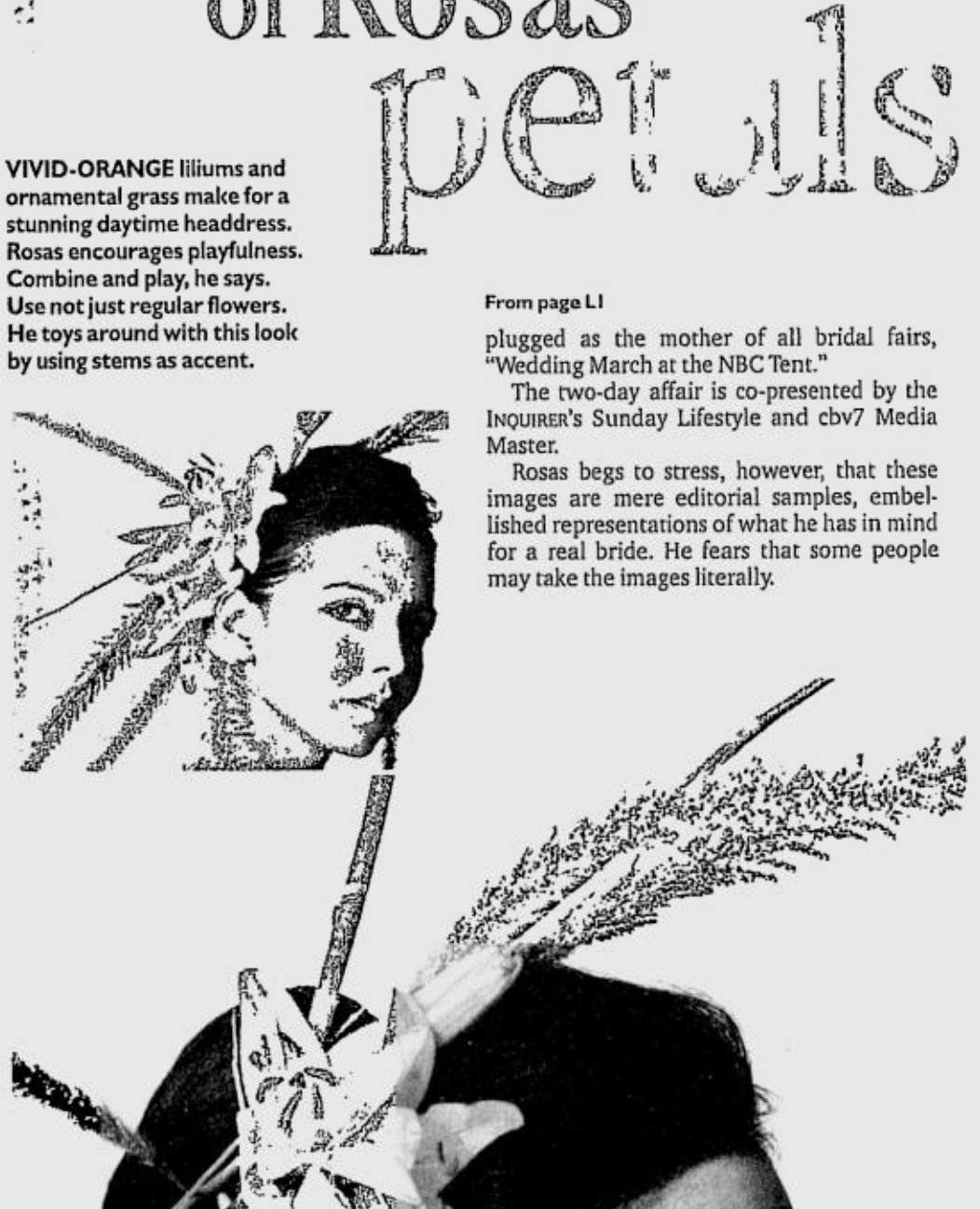
VIVID-ORANGE liliums and ornamental grass make for a stunning daytime headdress. Rosas encourages playfulness. Combine and play, he says. Use not just regular flowers. He toys around with this look by using stems as accent.

From page L1

plugged as the mother of all bridal fairs, "Wedding March at the NBC Tent."

The two-day affair is co-presented by the INQUIRER's Sunday Lifestyle and cbv7 Media Master.

Rosas begs to stress, however, that these images are mere editorial samples, embellished representations of what he has in mind for a real bride. He fears that some people may take the images literally.



SWEET, virginal and dreamy romance in just-plucked rose buds, in soft shades of cream, pale peach and pink

"It has happened before," he fesses ruefully. He has had bridal clients canceling on him, thinking he would apply the theatrical and unorthodox editorial looks on them.

Rosas says people need to understand that, like in fashion shows where otherwise regular, wearable clothes are subjected to styling for effect, makeup artists allow themselves room to get lost in shows and editorials, but make appropriate adjustments on an actual bride.

"Of course, I would never make a pointy hairstyle like this for a real bride," he says incredulously of one of the layouts. "And I would never use bright red makeup to create a cat's eye!"

Or plain cat's eye, for that matter. Unless, of course, the bride asks for it.

Brides with flair

Floral hairpieces are best for theme and beach weddings. "But they're for all brides who have flair, actually," he adds.

It's especially imperative that the gown designer and makeup artist collaborate if the bride opts to take the floral hair route. If she insists on using rhinestones, Rosas will compromise by mixing it with the blooms.

Rosas will scale down the looks in these images to suit the bride's bone structure, skin tone, gown design and personal style. For darker skin tones, he forbids the use of light-colored flowers.

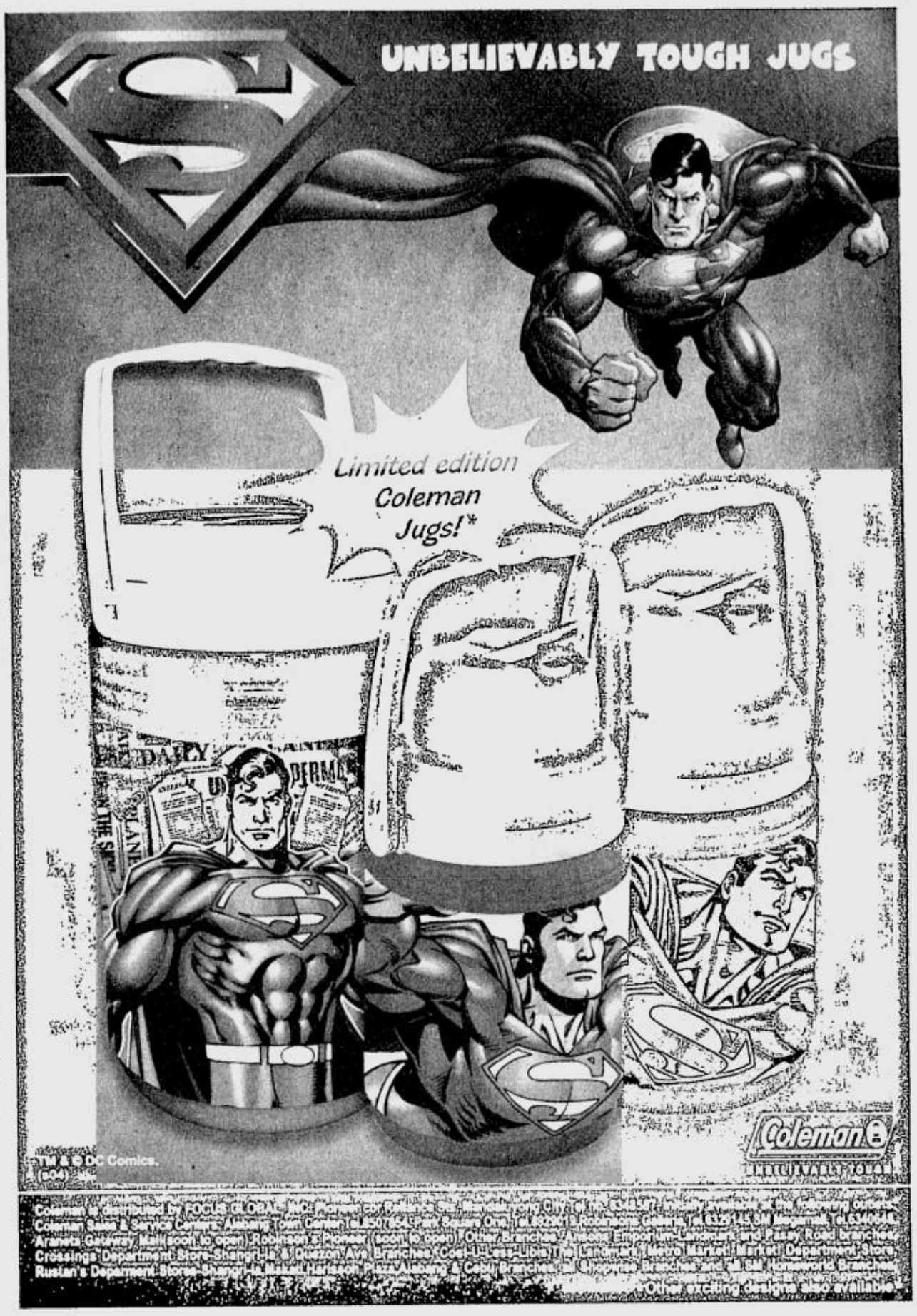
Exotics are suggested for *morenas*, like cymbidiums, orchids, waling-waling. *Morenas* should steer clear of red roses. "It's *malungkot* (sad) against your skin tone," Rosas explains.

Fair-skinned women and Chinese mestizas can opt for cymbidiums, he says. It's baby's breath and small orchids for petite brides. And for women with generous girth? "The more, the better." Those with patrician features generally can get away with any type of flower, according to him.

A SHOWER/ L4

PURPLE eyes and deep-wine lips perfectly complement the satin-velvety anthuriums for a romantic sunset wedding.

MODELS: CATERINA JUAN AND CELINE DE NEINDRE
FLOWERS PROVIDED BY TONY RODRIGUEZ
SHOT ON LOCATION MAKATI SHANGRI-LA
SPECIAL THANKS TO JOY WASSMER AND MAI MISLANG



A shower of Rosas petals

From page L2

Rosas suggests using a variety of flowers and other ornamentals. Playing with shapes, colors and textures are key. In fact, with the limited blossoms available to create these images, his team cleverly improvised by adding discarded stem scraps and those from the hotel suite's floral arrangements.

Looking at the results, it's evident that with the Rosas team, nothing is impossible, the possibilities limitless.

Makeup has to be dramatic. Or fresh, like the flowers. "It should complement your color motif and the flowers on your hair. *Huwag* match-match!" Rosas stresses. Likewise, the hairpiece need not be the same as the bridal bouquet.

Oh, and yes, he hastens to add, the bride *can* use a veil.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

EXOTIC blooms, like these liliums and bromeliads, promise tropical romance, ideal for a dusky daytime bride.

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AT LAST! Popular, gorgeous Joy Zapanta and top eligible bachelor Monsour del Rosario III are now Mr. and Ms del Rosario.

Made for each other

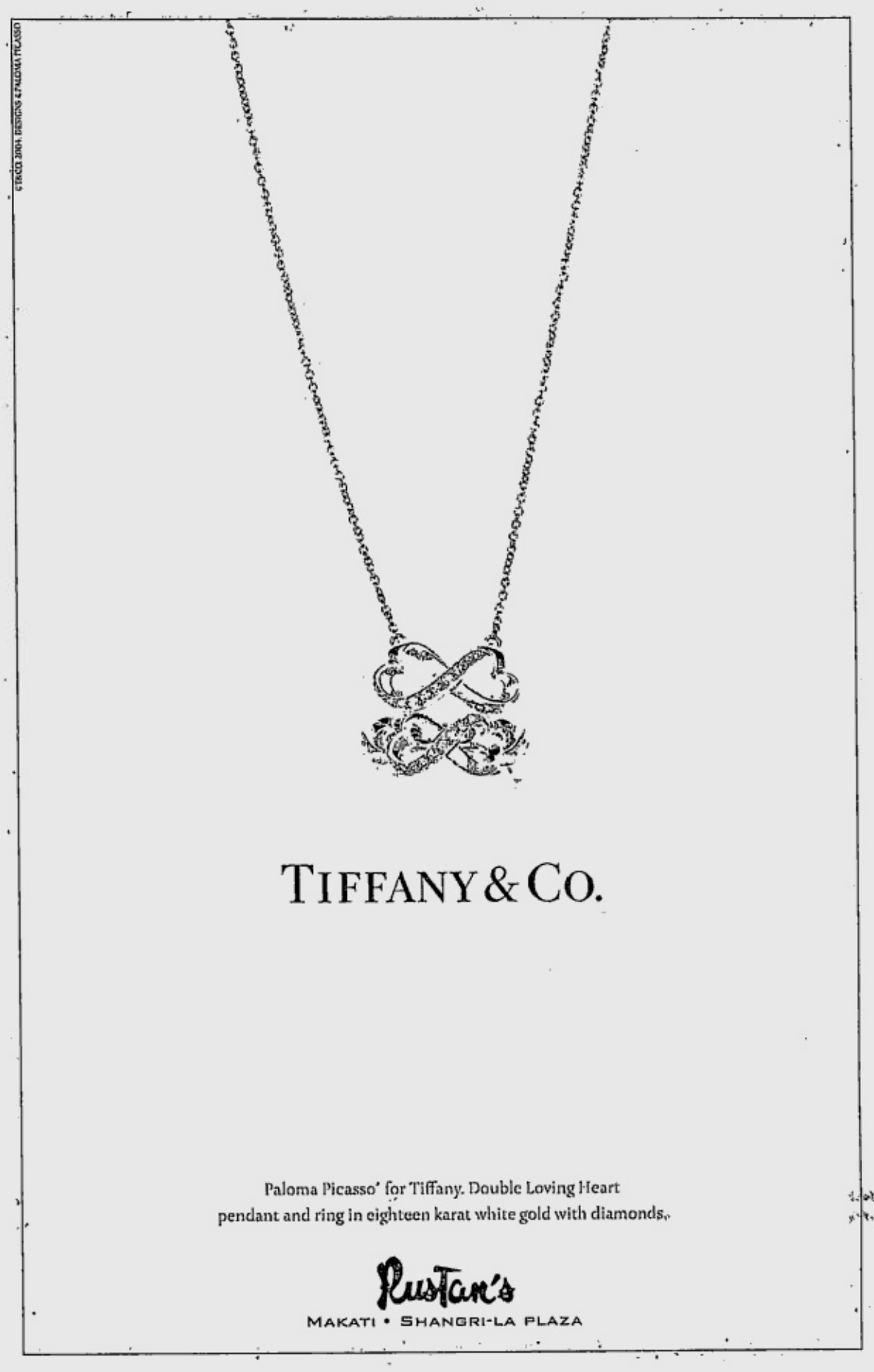
By Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen and Eddie Boy Escudero

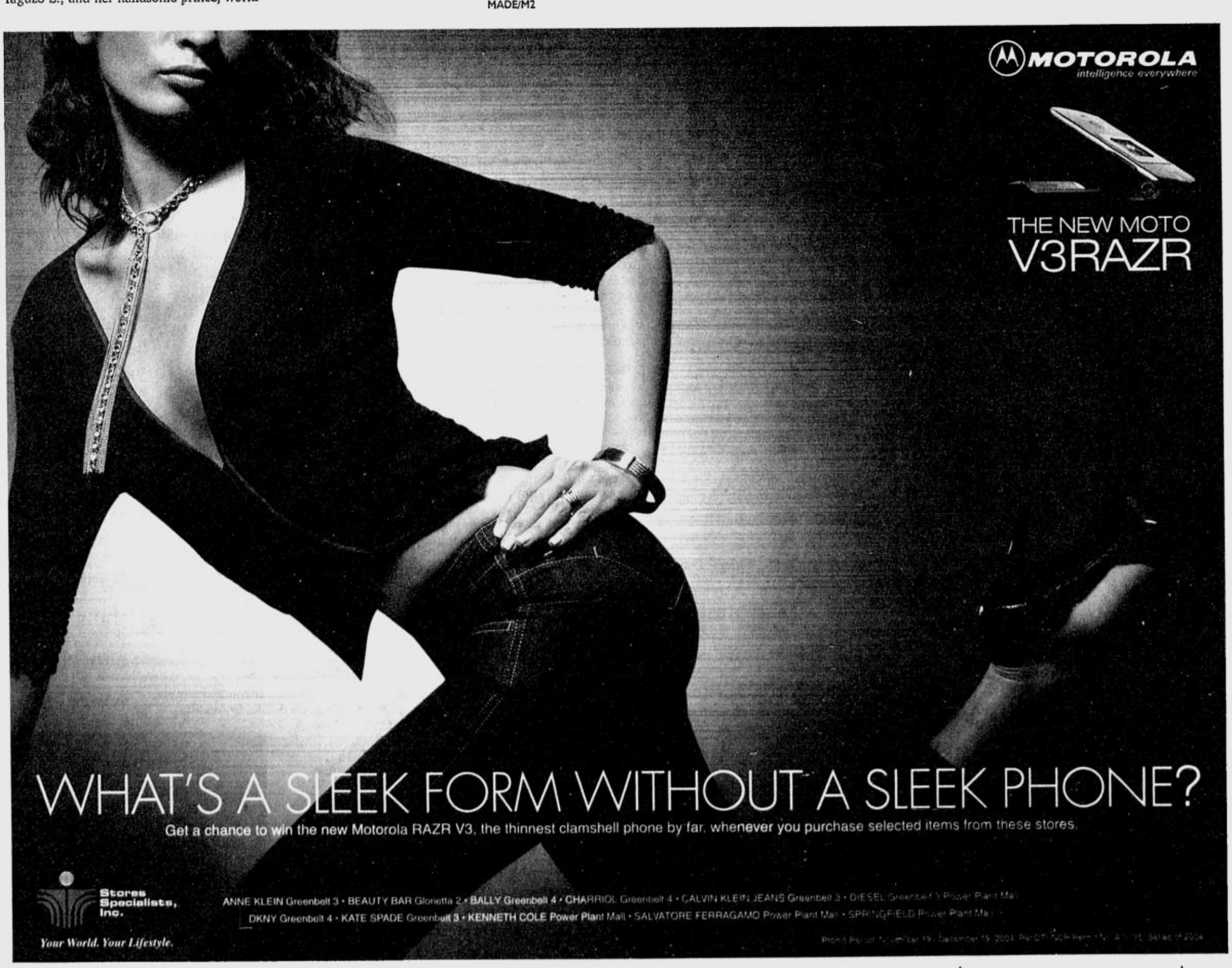
"IF IT'S fate, it's fate!" said the smiling bride.

Well, it must be, dahlings. After the four-year off-again, on-again romance, the gorgeous Joy Zapanta, daughter of mega architect Jaime Zapanta and the beautiful Cherry Taguzo Z.; and her handsome prince, world-class taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario, son of Negros sugar baron Lito del Rosario, and a Middle Eastern mother, the exotic Leila Tabib, finally said their "I dos" at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

All eyes were on the radiantly beautiful bride as she walked down the aisle with her proud father. She was wearing a stunning backless gown by one of her favorite couturiers, Rajo Laurel, no less, *palanggas*. The gown was fully beaded at the bottom, which must

MADE/M2





WOMEN sponsors Diday Barretto, Juliet Yap, Anita Tabib, Josephina Salonga and Virginia Laurel

ROYAL southern sugar barons: Marcial del Rosario, Tisha del Rosario-Kahl; Mon's mom, Leila Tabib; Joy and Mon with Mon's dad Lito del Rosario, and brothers Mike and Marc del Rosario

Made for each other

From page M1

have made the sultry creation weigh a ton. Despite this, she carried it like the true princess of the hour that she was as she walked to her tall, good-looking groom waiting at the altar. He was wearing a classic, sleek three-button Hugo Boss suit.

Intimate event

Both absolute perfectionists, Joy and Mon wanted an intimate wedding with only their closest of pals and famille. It was exactly what they got. Brothers and sisters of the couple and their respective families jetted in from San Francisco for this, "at last!", special occasion.

The principal sponsors were especially chosen, all of them very close family friends and personas who meant a lot in their lives. Hotshot namedroppables included Justice Josephine Salonga, Dr. Juliet Yap, Anita Tabib, Virginia Laurel, Diday Barretto, Bukidnon Governor Joe Zubiri, the groom's closest pal, Alex Escano, Pomeyo Nolasco, Rudy Zapanta, and Mon's tae kwon do "father," Mr. Hong.

The beautiful matron of honor Judith Zapanta-Berenguer Testa, and best man Anton Barretto, set the whole theme and ambience for the glorious wedding.

Even the color motif for the gowns was out of the ordinary, mainly gunmetal gray, *palanggas*, as Joy wanted. There were touches of silver, blue, yellow, and lavender in the flowers superbly executed by Floriade at the church and at the reception.

THE BEAUTIFUL Zapanta clan. Bride's brother James Zapanta, Dina Zapanta, Alexa Z. Yap, Stephen Yap, bride's sister Jenny Z. Yap, bride's mother Cherry Taguzo Zapanta; father of the bride Jaime Zapanta, bride's sister Joanne Z. Andrada, Juanjo Berenguer Testa, bride's sister and matron of honor Judith Z. Berenguer Testa, and Noel Andrada; Nicola Yap, Joey Zapanta, Miguel Andrada, Joaquin Andrada and Jaime Andrada

HEY, let's get rolling. Ring bearer Joaquin Zapanta and Miguel Zapanta Andrada, with Joey Lau Zapanta Jr.

FLOWER girl Julia Lau Zapanta

Chi-chi pack

Once the church ceremony was over, the chi-chi pack belonging to Cosmo Manille's and Bacolod's *alta sociedad* drove to the upscale stables of the horsy set, The Polo Club.

You couldn't help but feel the romantic ambience as you entered, achieved by draping huge tents above the tables with a colorful selection of flowers. The whole main ballroom was filled with lit candles.

The cake was especially made by Joy's super pal, Peachy Juban of Short-crust. Photographs filled with memories to remember for a lifetime were beautifully captured by comrades in cameras, top lens men—our very own—Alex Van Hagen and Eddieboy Escudero, *naturellement*.

Après the excellently prepared dinner, photographs of famille and friends who were with the couple throughout their love affair were flashed on the 12 by 14-ft screen, keeping us guessing what the couple decided to show.

With emotions running high, the best man and couple's parents gave speeches. But the most touching were delivered by Mon's brother and best pal, that had the man-of-steel-with-the-heart-of-a-boy sobbing. He hugged them with all the feeling in him. Wow!

Sentimental but fun

If I were to describe that evening I would use the words sentimental, romantic and fun, fun, fun, dahlings.

After the speeches, it was party time! Booze flowed, with tequila the most popular with the hip, partying pack. The Hyperbeat Band blasted away and dancing rocked the floor till 2 a.m.

But the couple didn't stop there. They went with loads of their pals to the popular V Bar, with Joy still in her heavy wedding gown while Mon took off his coat. We all continued partying until 6 a.m., would you believe?

Talk about active people? These two are a perfect match! Mon is hoping to have "a little Bruce Lee" of their own soon.

So, get cracking, you lovebirds!

BUSINESS magnate Jaime Zapanta walking his daughter Joy down the aisle to her waiting groom

THE HAPPY couple with Mon's guru and taekwondo "father," Mr. Hong

JOY and Mon with his grandmother and one ...he south's grand dames, Doña Letty ...s del Rosario

After a four-year on-again, off-again romance, the couple finally makes their church vows

THIS is the gang. Gil Camacho, Yvonne Camacho, Judith Berenguer Testa, Jon Robles, Lani Robles, Isabel Cacho, Crisann Celdran and Miguel Celdran, with the couple

MIREN Berenguer Testa, Anton Barretto and Yvonne Manahan-Camacho

THE COUPLE with Aimee Gloria, Chito Gloria, Noel Andrada and his gorgeous wife, Joanne Zapanta, and Ito Curata

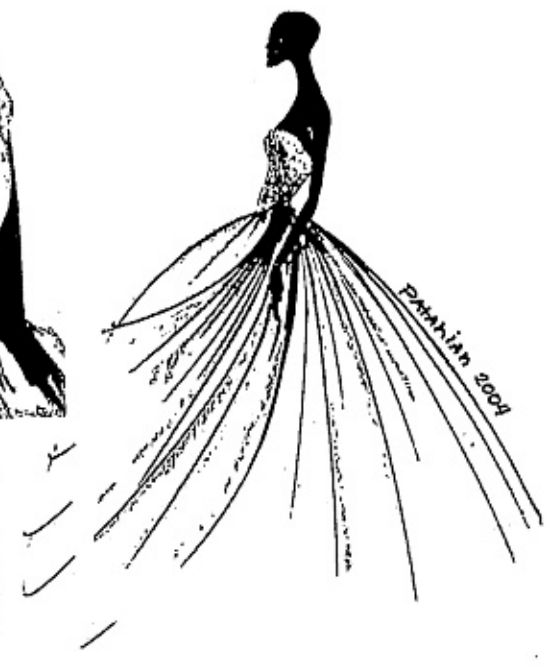
ANNA Garcia and her husband, Manuel Zubiri, with brother, Rep. Miguel Zubiri

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

CAPRICHOSA DEBUT

Marie Desiree C. Caprichosa, daughter of **Gary L. Caprichosa** and **Marilyn C. Caprichosa**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 10 at Sophia Garden, Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila, at 6 p.m. The debutante is a second year college student at St. Scholastica, Mania, taking up B.S. Commerce. Her gown, as well as the cotillion members', were designed and executed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day of Imus, Cavite, and Makati City.



ABAÑO DEBUT

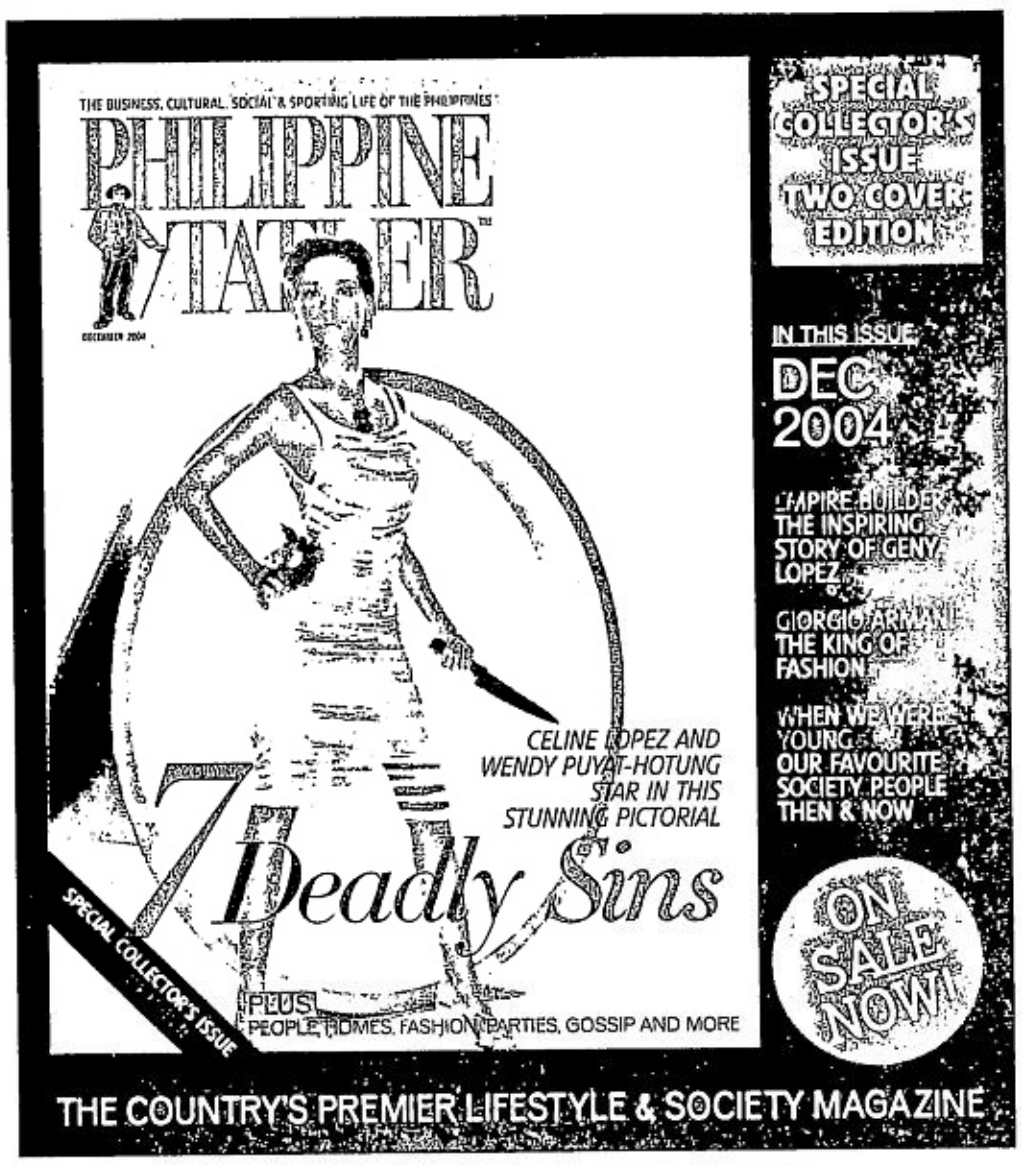
Ma. Carla Jessica "Nica" Yusepeng Abaño, eldest daughter of Mr. and Ms **Raphael T. Abaño**, née **Janet Yusepeng**, will be celebrating her debut on Dec. 28 at the Phela Grande Convention Center in General Santos City.

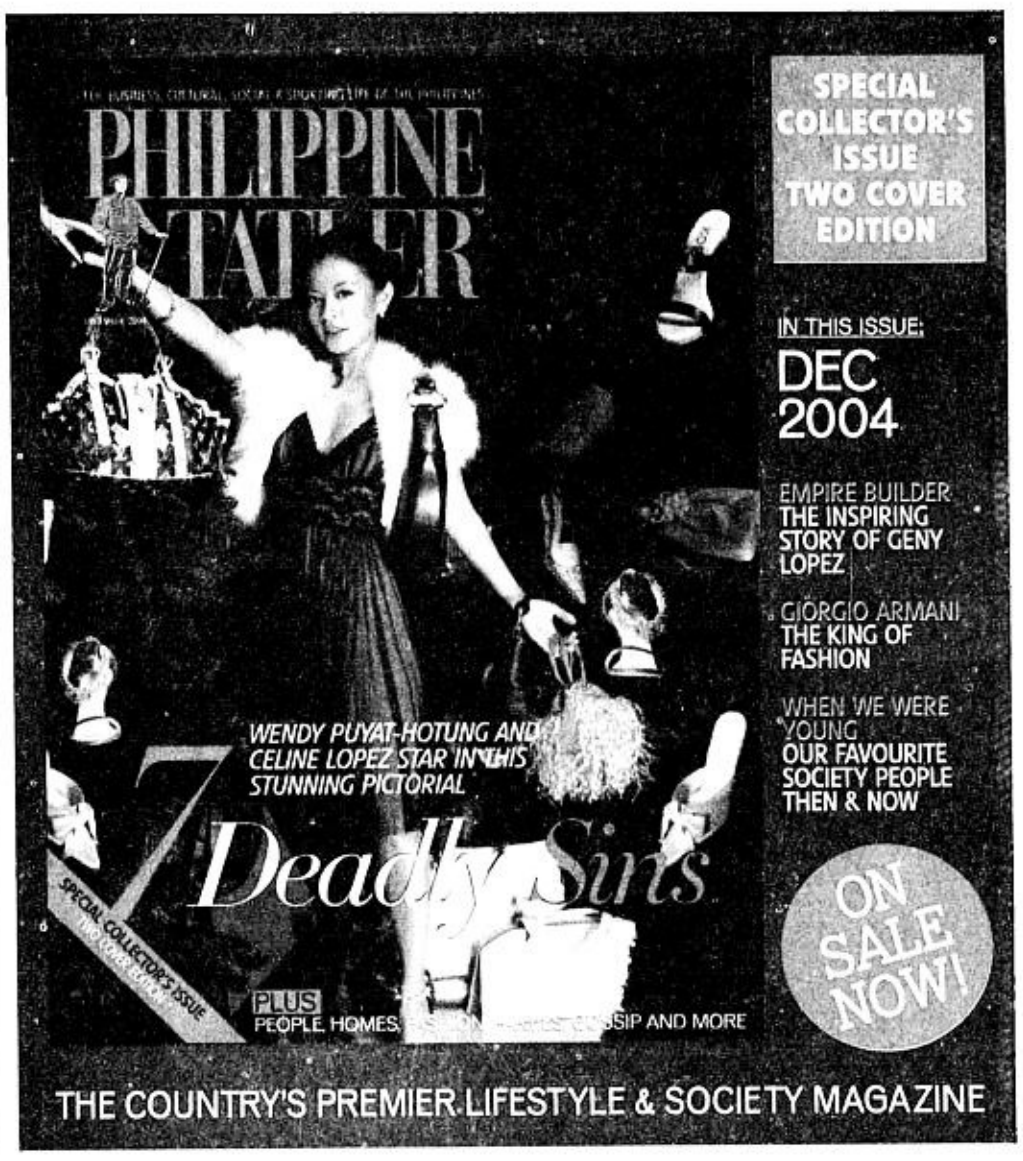
Nica is a sophomore at the Ateneo de Manila University majoring in AB European Studies-International Relations. Her Victorian-inspired gown—a full bouffant skirt accentuated with draped pink champagne chiffon; corset rouched with pink chiffon embellished with Swarovski crystals—is designed and executed by **Popoy** and **Aztec Barba** of Patahian Davao-GenSan.

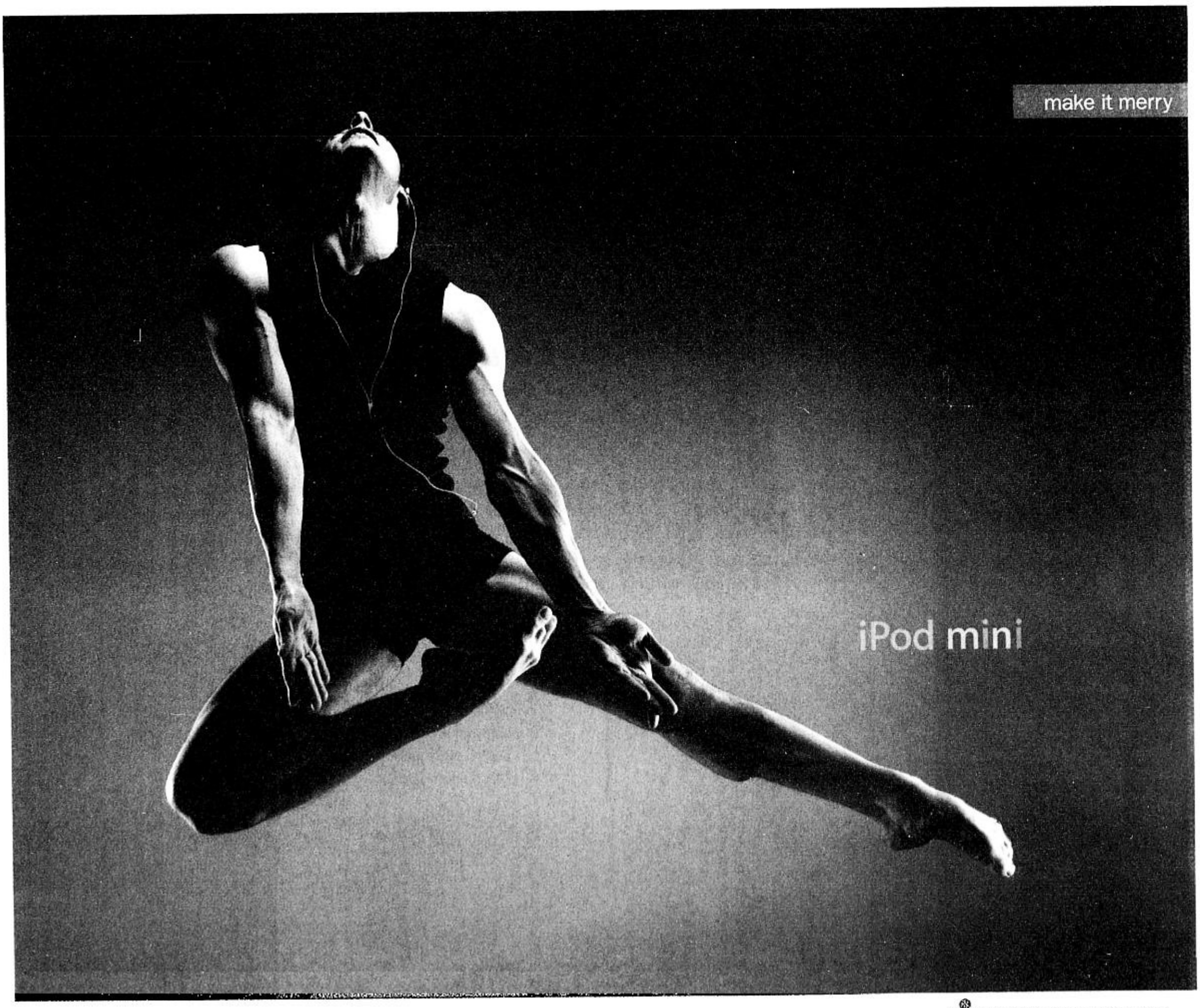
PORCEL DEBUT

Joana Mae Porcel, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Angel** and **Arlene Porcel** of Golden City Imus, Cavite, celebrated her 18th birthday on Nov. 9 at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

She wore a duchess red satin princess-cut gown embellished with glass beads and Swarovski crystals designed by **Nordee Dizon.**







PAZ DEBUT

Rachele Loren S. Paz, daughter of **Robertino** and **Aurelia Paz**, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at the Richmonde Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. She is a freshman at Miriam College. The debutante wore a princess-cut powder-pink shirred gown by **Edgar Allan**.

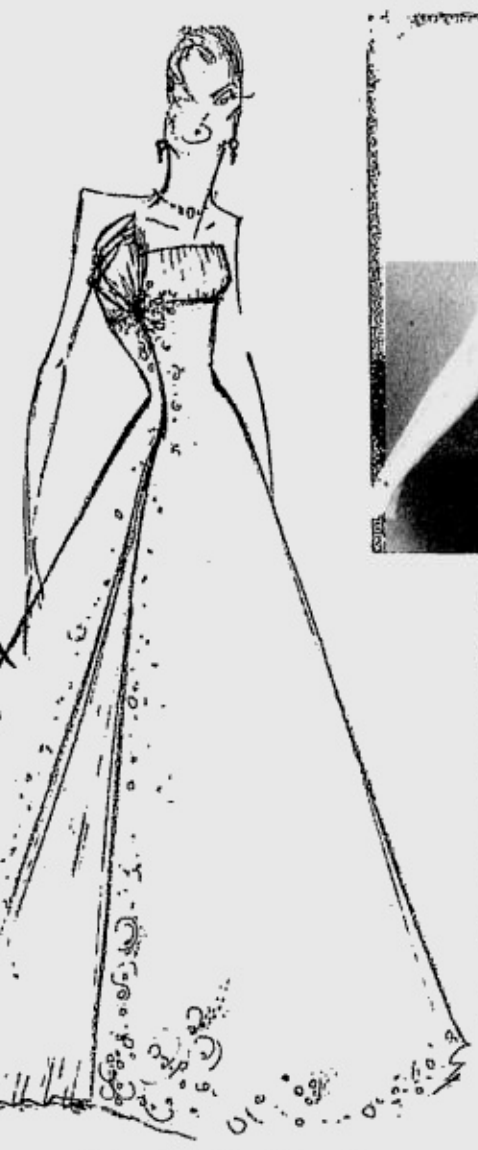
UBAS DEBUT

Andrea Camille Galzote Ubas, daughter of **Julius Ireneo S. Ubas** of Koronadal City, South Cotabato and **Crilany E. Galzote-Ubas** of Sto. Domingo, Albay, turned 18 on Sept. 9, and will hold a special celebration on Dec. 29, at Celema's Place, Koronadal City, 7 p.m.

Andrea will wear a **Pete Policarpio** creation.

OCAMPO DEBUT

Cilca "Che-che" V. Ocampo, daughter of **Jerry** and **Merle Ocampo**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Carmina Janna Hall, Sariaya, Quezon. Her gown was designed by **Merci Ocampo Pugeda**.



QUE DEBUT

Mary Loraine Vasquez Que, daughter of **Eugenio Marlo and Lorna V. Que**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Nov. 20 at Pan Pacific Hotel, Pacific Ballroom.

She is a third year BS Public Health student at the University of the Philippines, Manila, and a consistent academic scholar of the same school.

Her gown and those of the entourage were designed and executed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of Imus Cavite of The Wedding Day.

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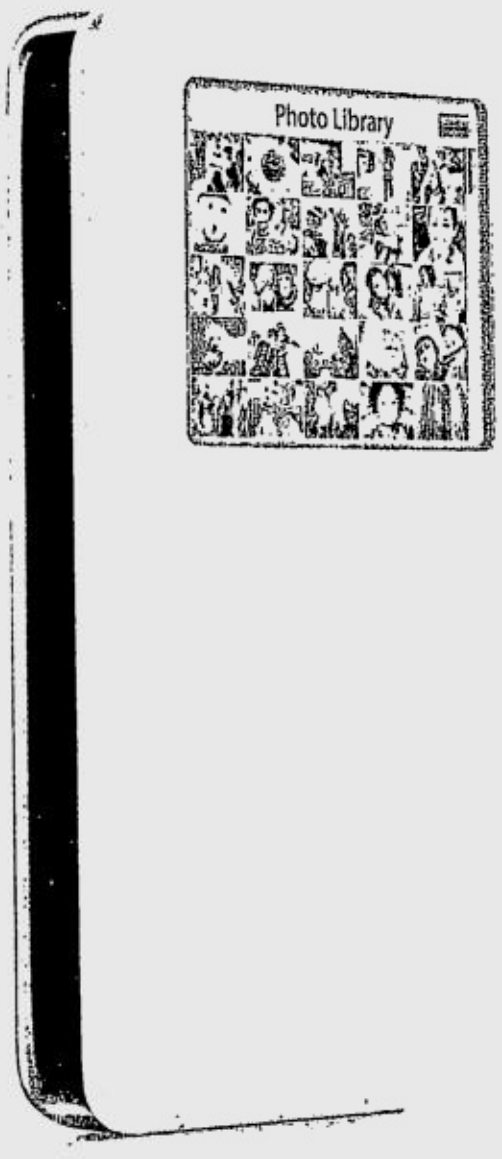

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Now, you can share holiday memories with your friends and relatives without lugging bulky laptops or photo albums around. Poring through that organizer for your meetings won't be necessary either. With up to 60 GB of room for as many as 25,000 photos, ...or up to 42 days of continuous voice recording, the iPod can keep both your work and life mobile, within your pocket. All without putting a pause on your music.

[1] Photos has to be transfered via a computer using iTunes. Photo capacity is based in iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes. For more information about the iPod photo's full capabilities, please visit www.asia.apple.com/ipodphoto
[2] Requires the use of third party accessories.

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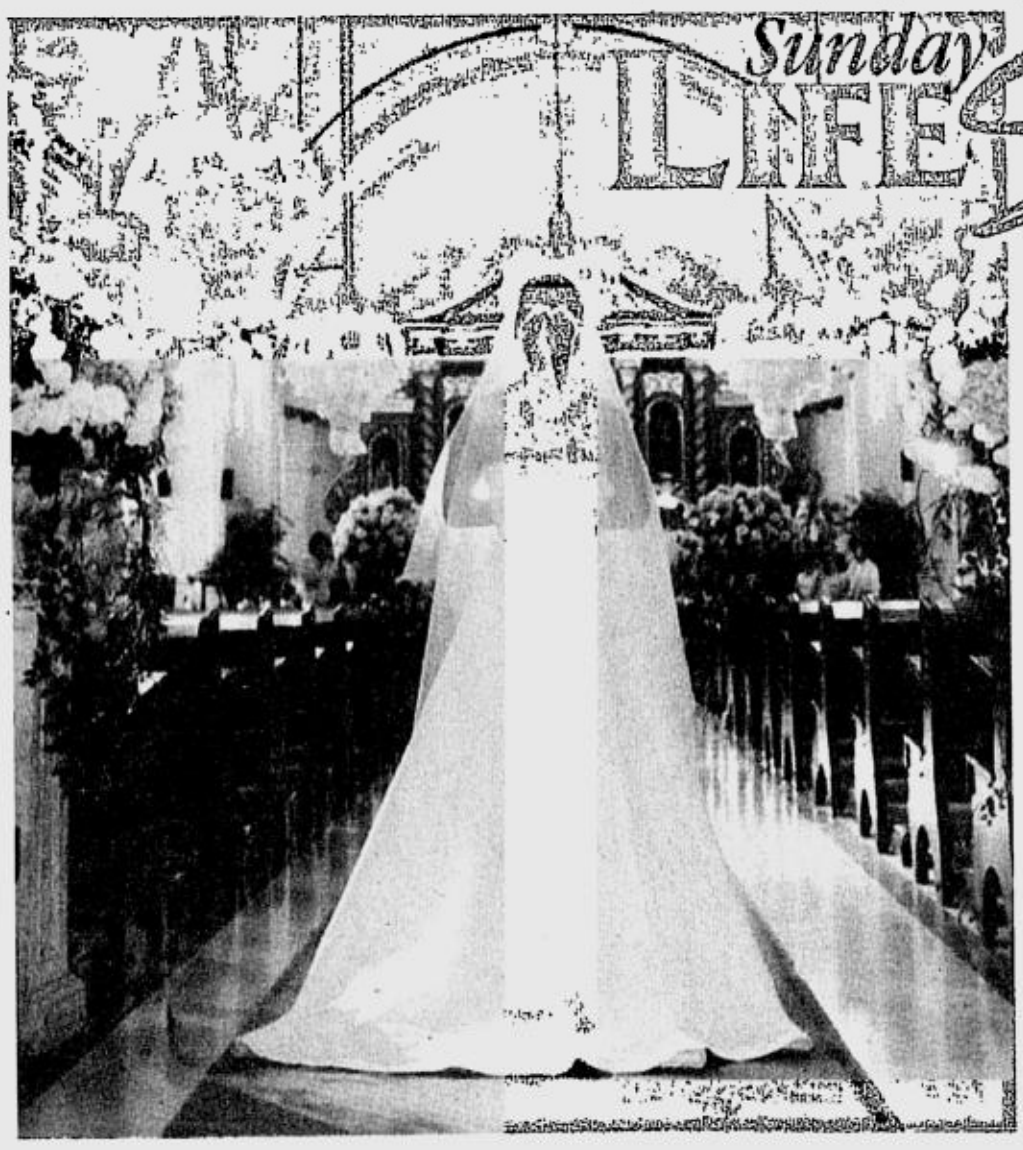

Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

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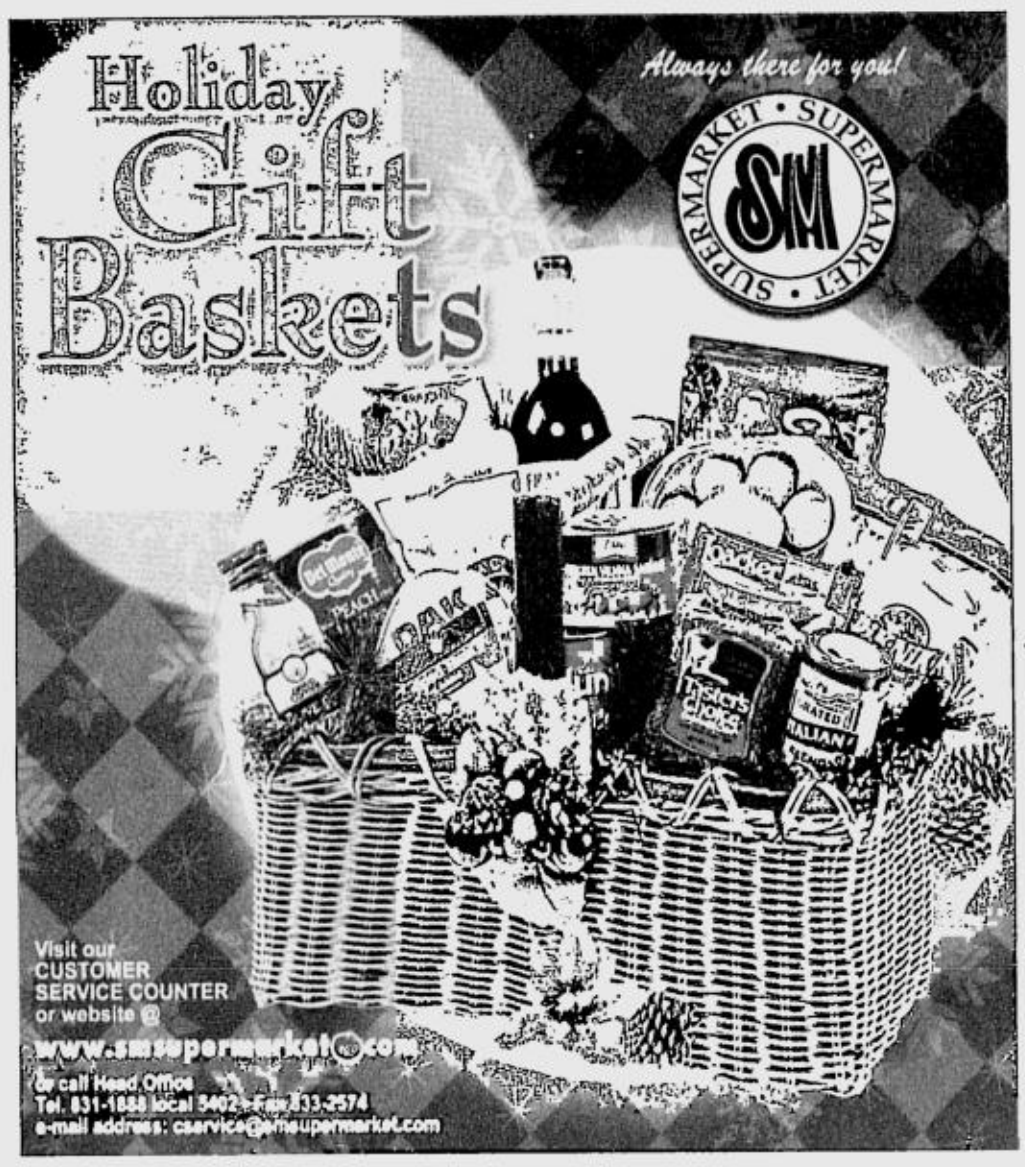
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A FAIR TO REMEMBER

"May Kasal sa Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair," now on its fourth year, will be held Feb. 5-6, 2005, at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. The fair aims to prepare spiritually soon-to-wed couples for their life ahead. Religious and marriage advocates will provide counseling during the two-day event. Call 8250804/3482.



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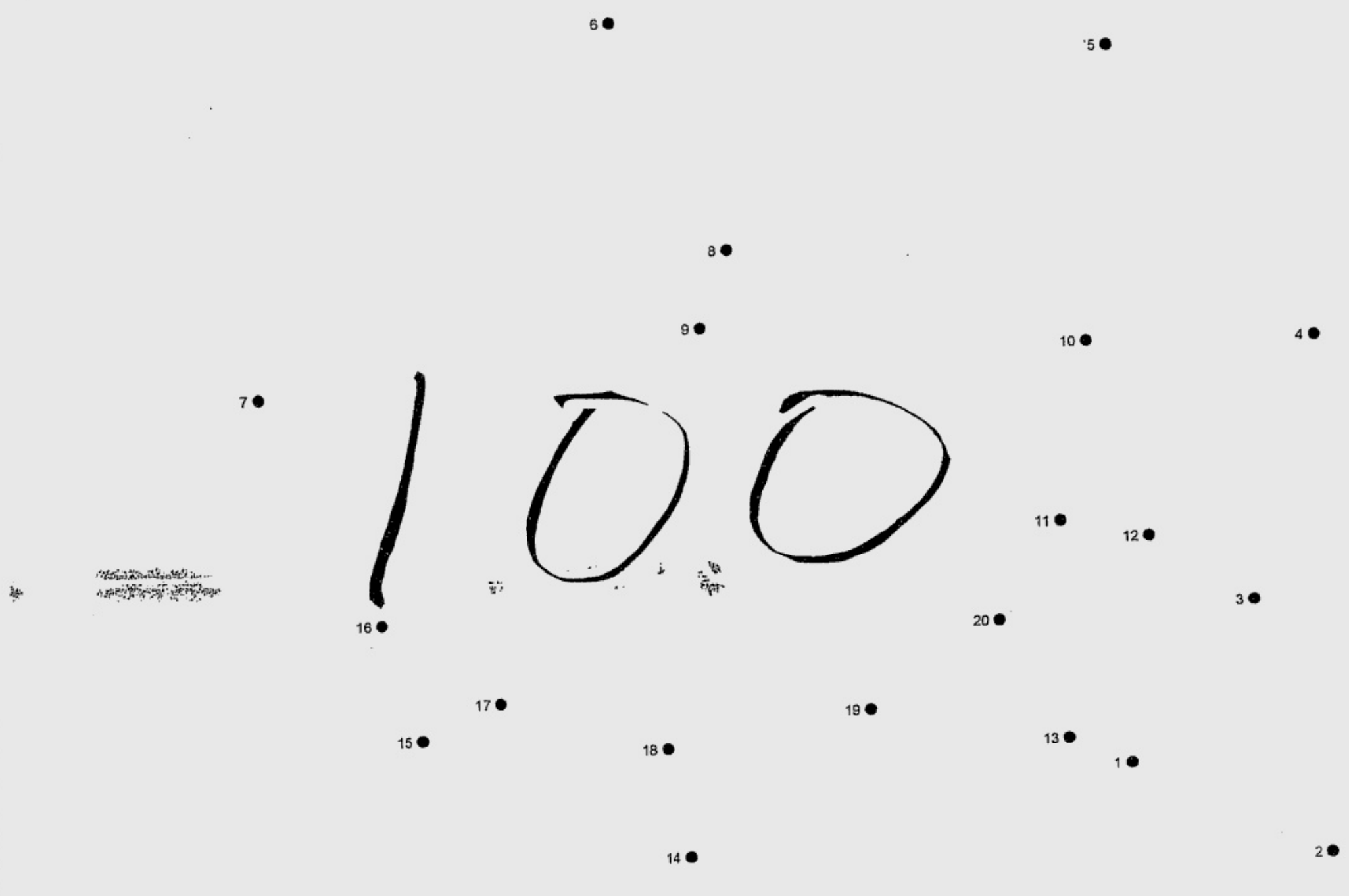

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Contact the Children's Hour: 10/F BPI Main Building,
6768 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati;
Telephone Number: 894-1663; or visit www.childrenshour.org.ph.

Songs and dances for the Virgin

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE *CARACOL* in honor of the miraculous icon of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary enshrined in the church of Rosario, Cavite is known to go on and on at the entrance of the town, so much so that the parish priest has to beg the people to stop and bring the icon back to church.

This bit of information came from Ado Escudero, chair of the *comite de festejos* of the grand Marian procession in Intramuros last Sunday, as he watched Caviteños dance and sing in front of the Manila Cathedral after the long procession.

The icon on *andas* carried by men was swayed and turned to face the church. Fr. Oliver Genuino, parish priest of Rosario, came with his parishioners and concelebrated the High Mass officiated by Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales earlier in the afternoon.

Eighty-two images in flower-bedecked *carrozas* joined the procession, now on its 25th year. For the first time, Plaza de Roma in front of the cathedral was full of people watching, praying and singing with the devotees who joined the procession.

When Our Lady of Piat came (brought all the way from Cagayan), Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan went down the steps of the cathedral and incensed her. Accompanying the Virgin were Inday Lara, wife of Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara; Carolina Prada, who walked with a *baston*; Bobby Caballero, author of the Piat book; lawyer Amy Callueng, whose devotion knows no bounds; and Piat devotees.

Our Lady of Charity

Eighteen years after the Edsa Revolution in 1986, the image of Our Lady of Charity, patroness of Agoo, La Union, was brought again for the procession accompanied by Amparo Aspiras, her children and friends. One of them was Brother Cesar Talucod, who has put up a prayer room on Doña Toribia Aspiras Street in Barangay San Antonio, Agoo, La Union. The prayer room is part of the house rented by the God Loves Family Catholic Foundation, which organizes Life in the Spirit seminars there.

The foundation supports itself by selling bread house to house. But it hopes to build a home for the elderly abandoned by their families. Brother Cesar, a lay minister, gives Holy Communion to 12 sick people in their homes.

Those who wish to help make this dream come true can text Brother Cesar at 0917-7959565 or write him at the above address. The house will be called Tahanan ng Pinagpala or House of the Blessed. He is willing to start with a *bahay kubo*.

Lady of Truth

Boy Ponce who lived in the United States for many years has brought back a replica of the Nuestra Señora de la Verdad, patroness of Chile. For the past three years, he had been bringing the image to the Marian procession and spreading devotion to her by enthroning her at the Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish in BF Parañaque.

Marijo Reyes-Feraren, daughter of former *hermana mayor* Imelda Albano Reyes, recalled how her mother, one of the first members of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, served the organization for 10 years.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, second patroness of the Philippines, was also in the procession. Today is her feast day and all churches dedicated to her are holding Masses and processions.

The parish church of Valladolid, Negros Occidental will have a big celebration today. The church has new pews and has been meticulously cleaned.

The campaign to restore the church by Tima Lacson and her friends have made things happen. Two years ago, the Spirit of '67 had a concert in Bacolod to raise funds. Dr. Cristina Sarabia-Heras also reports that more and more people are now attending Sunday Masses. Mr. and Ms Macoy Lopez of Bacolod City restored the old *ermita* (chapel) using stones from the ruins as a shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

New 'hermanas mayores'

Imelda Cojuangco was the *hermana mayor* for 2004. In 2005, *hermanos* will be Justa Tantoco, Karen Macasaet and Bobby Novenario.

Thanks to Allan Tengco for the photos used here that were taken by Lorna Llanes.

Our Lady of Salambao

The Obando Parish Church will hold the solemn coronation of Our Lady of Salambao today. Obando has two more patron saints: St. Claire of Assisi and San Pascual Baylon. Many women go to Obando and dance before the Virgin to ask for a child. Their prayers are almost always answered. Fr. Dandy de los Reyes is the parish priest.

Feast of St. Lucy

The towns of Calumpit in Bulacan and Sasmuan in Pampanga mark the feast day of St. Lucy Dec. 13. My friends and I visited St. Lucy in barrio Sta. Lucia in Calumpit, a practice we try to keep since we went four years ago after I developed a problem with my left eye that made it difficult for me to read or type. My friend Susan also had a problem at that time.

St. Lucy is the patroness of good eyesight so we went and prayed to her. Both our problems were solved.

Al Perez calendars

The Asiageographic Publications has released a 2005 calendar featuring paintings of old churches by Al Perez. Part of the sales will help the Adopt-a-Seminarian project of Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD. The calendar is available at the San Agustin Museum, Ayala Museum, Silahis Arts and Crafts in Intramuros, National Bookstore, PowerBooks and Goodwill Bookstore. The paintings measure 12" x 12".

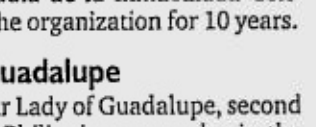
Cards from Cribs

Cribs Philippines is again selling Christmas cards that will help support the residence for female sexual abuse victims, aged 7-17. The cards are made by girls at Cribs-New Beginnings during art therapy.

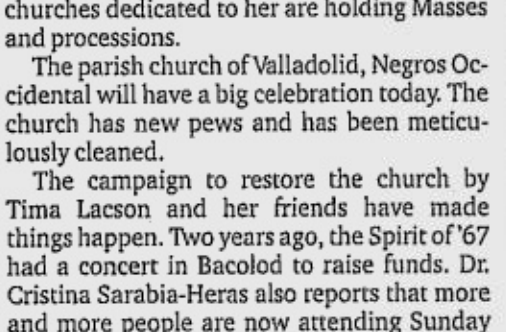
Each card you buy brings them closer to the path of healing and recovery.

Call 6815921.

OUR Lady of Guadalupe, second patroness of the Philippines



HERMANAS *mayores* Karen Macasaet (2005) and Imelda Cojuangco (2004)



JUSTA Tantoco and Bobby Novenario

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ESTABILLO-NIERVA

Edgardo "Dong" Estabillo Jr., son of engineer **Edgardo** and **Teresita Estabillo**, will marry **Lailani "Lai" Nierva**, daughter of engineer **Camilo** and **Lourdes Nierva** on Dec. 15, at St. Michael Parish, Fort Bonifacio. Dinner reception will be at Makati Parks and Garden Artist Pavilion. The bride will wear an ivory-white empire princess-cut silk gazar and Spanish lace gown embellished with caviar and sugar beads with a detachable train. It was designed by **Eddie Baddeo.**

AGUADO-TIMBOL

Dickie Aguado and **Lorraine Timbol** will tie the knot on Dec. 12 at Sonia's Garden, Buck Estate, Alfonso, Cavite.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in blush-pink chiffon georgette. It has a ruched and draped bodice with beaded noodle straps, and embellished with crystal brooches.

The entourage will wear chiffon gowns in shades of aqua, turquoise, lilac and lavender.

MAGABO -VALENCIA

Elias and Virginia Magabo celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently by a Holy Mass offered by their children **Tilde, Naty, Myrna, Cymby, Nestor** and **Rey**, and grandchildren, **Anthony** and **Nicky** at San Andres Chapel, Malvar, Batangas.

VILLANUEVA-MANDAC

Dante Villanueva and **Agnes Mandac** exchanged marriage vows recently at Sto. Niño Shrine Church, San Gabriel Village, Tuguegarao City. Reception followed at Hotel Roma.

ALBANO-CHUA

Rico Albano, son of **Enrique** and **Thelma Albano**, will marry **Jennifer Chua**, daughter of **Felipe** and **Elena Chua**, 3:30 p.m., Dec. 19, at the gardens of Ilustrado.

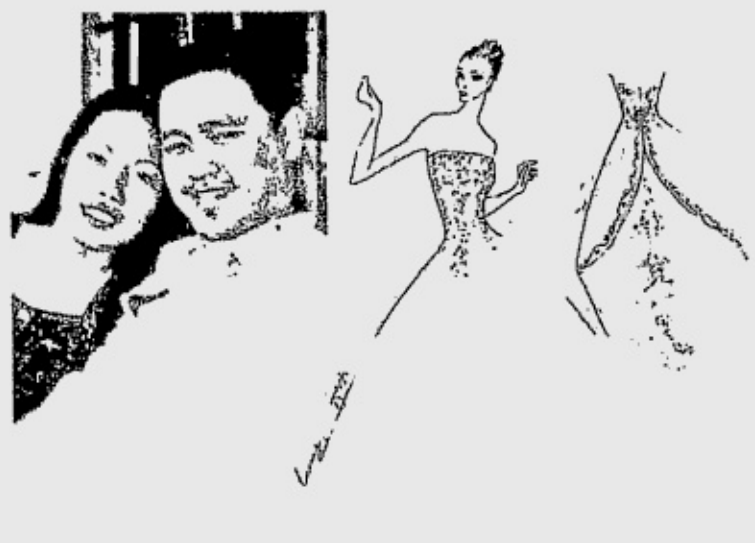
Gowns of the bride and her entourage were designed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day of Imus, Cavite, and Makati City.

LIM-CHU

INQUIRER's **Donald Lim** will marry **Kimberly Chu** on Dec. 19, at San Sebastian Church, Manila. The bride will wear a strapless gown with ivory floral print, glass sequins, Swarovski crystals and a long tulle train, designed by **Val Leaño** of San Fernando Street, Binondo.

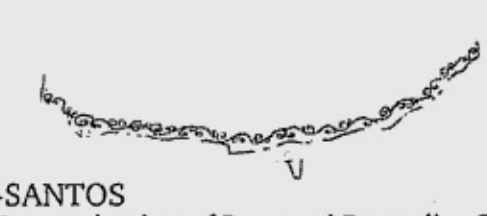
MARTINEZ-CO

Jeniebelle Co, daughter of **Benito** and **Norma Co** of Parañaque City, will marry **Cesar Martinez Jr.**, son of **Cesar** and **Digna Martinez** of Caloocan City, on Dec. 18, at Binondo Church. Reception will follow at the Coral Ballroom of Manila Pavilion Hotel. The bride will wear a gown designed by Catalina Boutique. Good Concept Ent. will document the event.



SIMBULAN-ELPEDES

Oscar M. Simbulan, father of **Janna Cassandra Elpedes Simbulan**, will marry **Jhoanna Elpedes**, daughter of **James Sumayo Elpedes** and **Severina Castro Elpedes**, on Dec. 13, at Fernwood Garden, Quezon City. The event was organized by **Catherine Kiok Lay** of Crear El Pasar Event Management.



SIMSUANGCO-SANTOS

Dr. Irene Joy S. Santos, daughter of **Romy** and **Evangeline Santos**, will marry **Jonathan D. Simsuangco**, son of **Dante** and **Fe Simsuangco**, on Dec. 26, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila.

Celebration will follow at The Garden Courtyard, Ilustrado Restaurant in Calle Real del Palacio, Intramuros, Manila.

The bride's gown, made of gazar fabric with Swarovski crystals and beadwork embellishments, was designed by **Larry Zuniga Jr.**

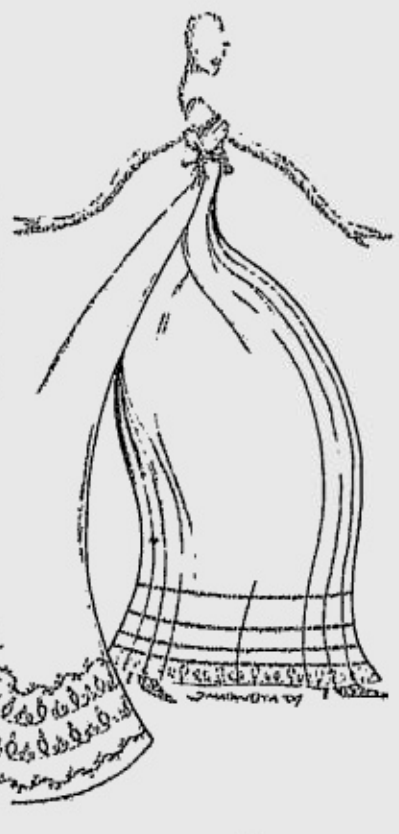
SADORRA-PANIS

Erwin R. Sadorra, son of **Ernesto** and **Cecilia Sadorra**, recently married **Pamela Ann B. Panis**, daughter of **Fidencio** (deceased) and **Dominga Panis**, at Church of the Risen Lord on J.P. Laurel Street, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Reception followed at Ang Bahay ng Alumni at Magsaysay Ave., UP Diliman.

ARENAS-GERMAN

Ramil Arenas, son of **Rufino** and **Eufemia Arenas**, will exchange vows with **Joy German**, daughter of **Efren** and **Nonata German**, at St. Joseph Parish Church, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, on Dec. 18. Reception will follow at the Grotto Vista Resort, Bulacan.

The bride will wear an ecru duchess princess-cut gown, while the entourage will wear two-toned apple-green iridescent satin gowns designed by **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations.



BUBAN-MANZANARES

Maida Manzanares, daughter of **Ernesto M. Manzanares** and **Avelina A. Manzanares**, will marry lawyer **Marino Buban** at the DPWH Grounds, Government Center, Palo, Leyte, on Dec. 18.

Reception will follow at Convention Center, DPWH Compound, Government Center.

The bride will wear a **Jay Masangya** creation, an empire-cut gown in Italian silk.

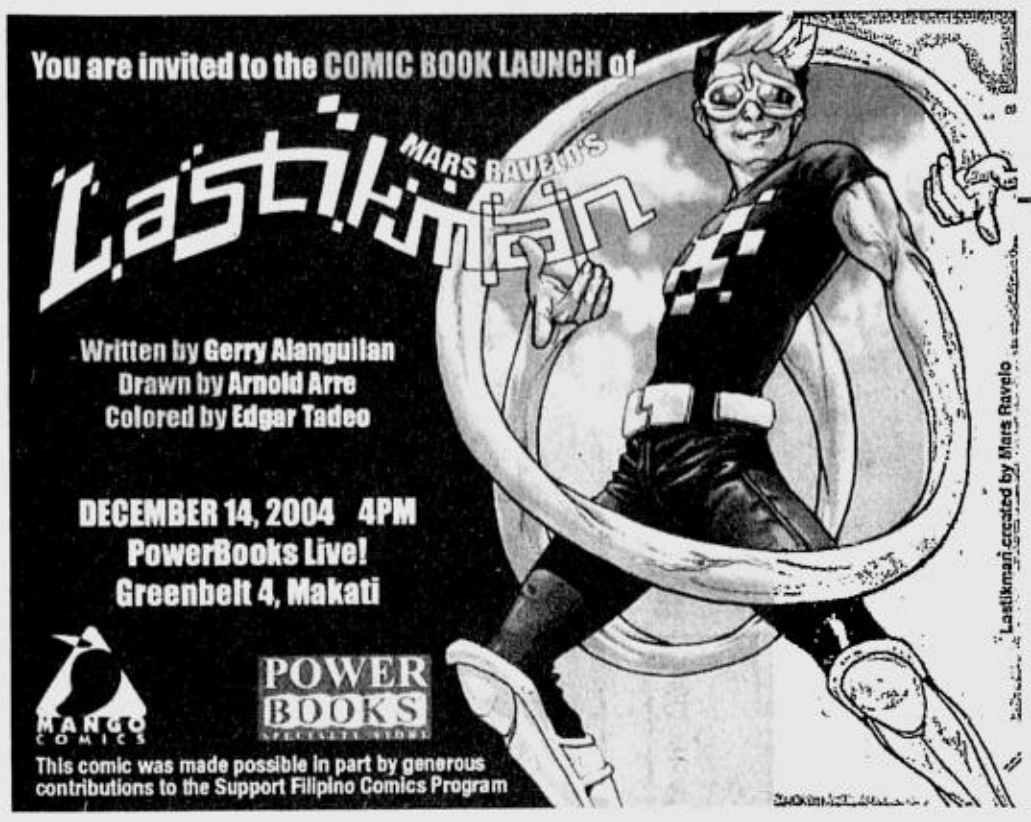
REPOSTO-NACUA

Jeffry Reposto, son of **Federico** and **Beatriz Reposto**, will exchange vows with **Myralese Nacua**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Marlene Nacua**, on Dec. 16, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tagaytay City. Reception will follow at the Tropical Green Clubhouse, Tagaytay City.

The bride will wear an ecru duchess princess-cut gown, while the entourage will wear two-toned orange-and-fuchsia iridescent satin gowns by **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations.

ESPEDIDO-CALDERON

Joseph Espedido and **Gina Calderon** got married recently at Christ the King Church in Pasig. Reception followed at the Acropolis Country Club, Pasig.



Mars Ravelo's 'Lastikman' to be launched

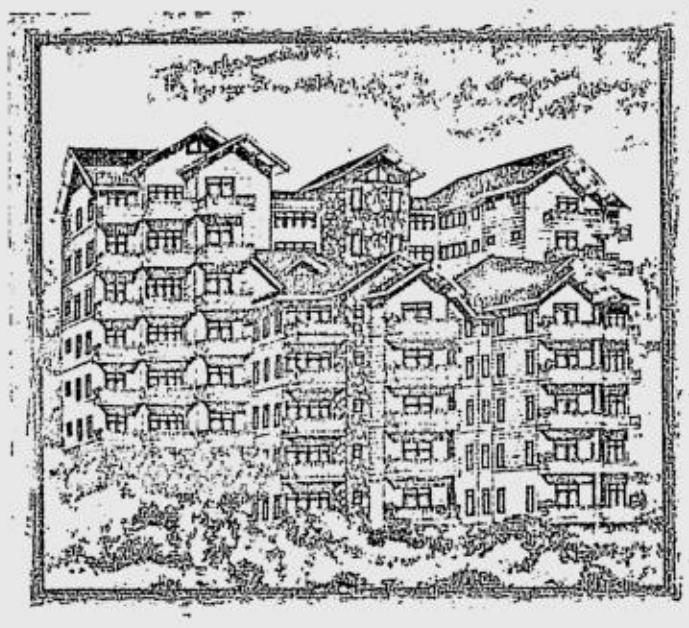
MANGO Comics launches Mars Ravelo's "Lastikman" on Dec. 14, Tuesday, 4 p.m. at PowerBooks Live! Greenbelt 4, Makati to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this fantastic, elastic creation.

Mango Comics brings Lastikman back to the pages of comics in full color. Created in 1965, Lastikman comes to life through comic book creator and inker Gerry Alanguilan ("Wasted," "Superman: Birthright"), Arnold Arre ("After Eden," "Mythology Class," "Trip to Tagaytay") and Edgar Tadeo ("Wolverine," "Silver Surfer"). Ryan Orosco ("Darna") assists.

This special 56-page one shot pays homage to the original story of one of the country's most popular superheroes, and features a cameo from Mango Comics' newest creation. Mango Comics' Mars Ravelo's "Lastikman" is made possible in part through generous contributions to the Support Filipino Comics Program.

Mango Comics is a brand of Yonzon Entertainment Syndicate (YES!), publisher of the National Book Awardee "Darna," humor magazine Mwahaha and "MooMoo Hunters" which tells the confrontation of two young boys with Filipino mythological creatures.

"Lastikman" the graphic novel is different from the "Lastikman" movie.



A SLICE OF THE SWISS HIGH LIFE

Brittany Corporation, the property development maverick, introduces a new type of home at Crosswinds, Tagaytay. The Grand Quartier (**pronounced as kwôr'ti-Er**) will soon rise in one of the highest locations within the property.

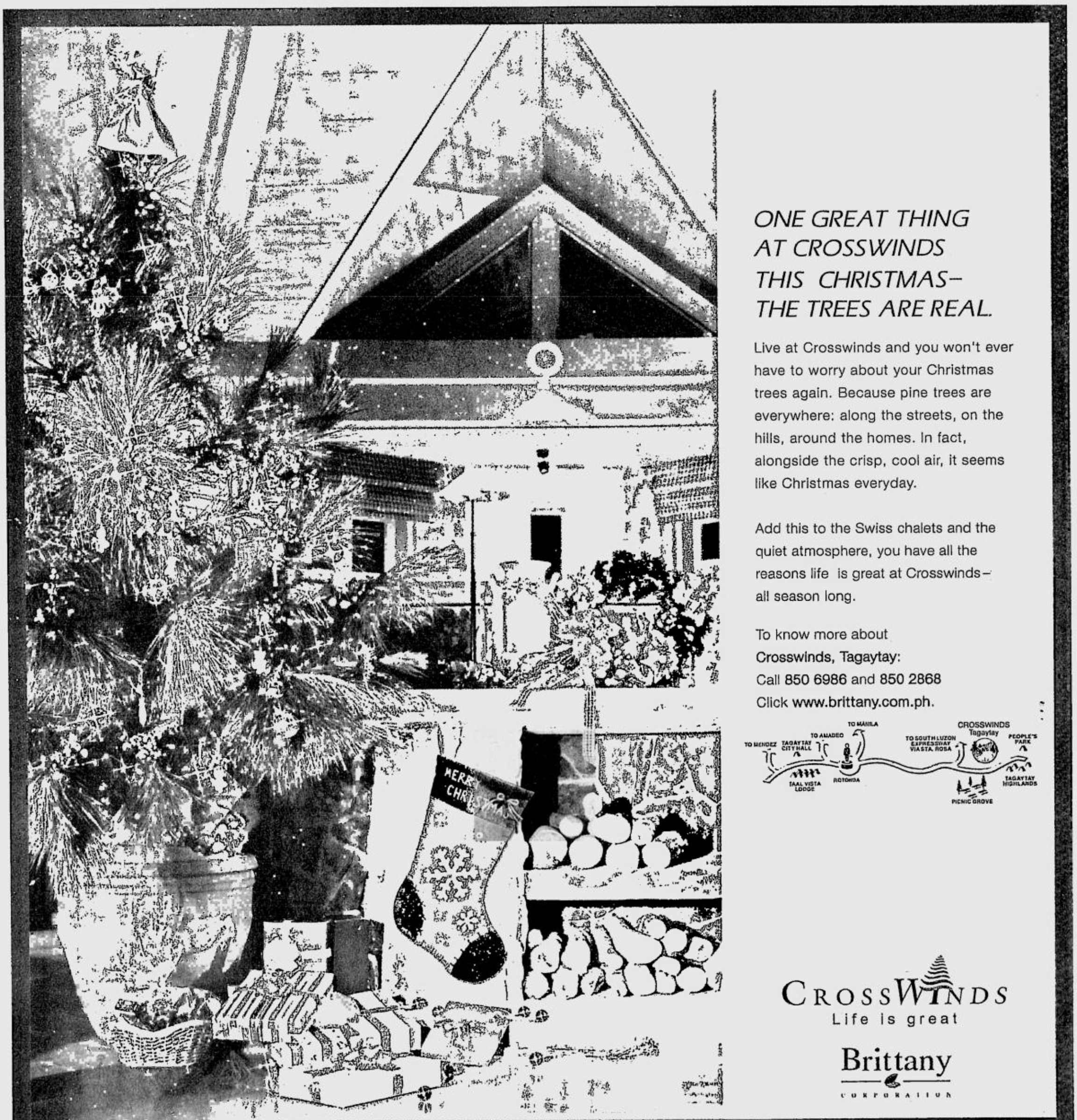
The launch of the Grand Quartier affords the luxury of Swiss living for people who have worked for a great life. For these people, the Grand Quartier presents an idyllic Swiss weekend home amidst the scent of pine, the calming quiet and the relaxing cool air.

Envisioned by Brittany Corporation and rendered by Recio + Casas, the Grand Quartier is a cluster of low rise multi-family developments embracing the Crosswinds hillside. The Grand Quartier is a multi-level residence with a combination of 1 and 2-bedroom units. Floor areas range between 74 square meters and 109 square meters. All units will have balconies for better enjoying the fresh air.

The Grand Quartier builds on the previous success of the Swiss Quadrilles. The location, the Swiss inspiration, and the over 8,000 pine trees growing all over the estate has proven to be a winning combination in which the initial Quadrilles sold out in a record 4 months.

Once completed, the Grand Quartier will tower above all like the majestic chalets of Switzerland—offering a slice of the great Swiss high life.

To have a taste of the great Swiss high life, get a Property Preview. Call 850 6986 or 850 2868. Click www.brittany.com.ph.



ONE GREAT THING AT CROSSWINDS THIS CHRISTMAS– THE TREES ARE REAL.

Live at Crosswinds and you won't ever have to worry about your Christmas trees again. Because pine trees are everywhere: along the streets, on the hills, around the homes. In fact, alongside the crisp, cool air, it seems like Christmas everyday.

Add this to the Swiss chalets and the quiet atmosphere, you have all the reasons life is great at Crosswinds– all season long.

To know more about
Crosswinds, Tagaytay:
Call 850 6986 and 850 2868
Click www.brittany.com.ph.

CROSSWINDS
Life is great
Brittany
CORPORATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

EXPERIENCE THE HOLIDAY FUN AT PHILIPPINE RAGNAROK ONLINE WITH THE CHRISTMAS PATCH COMING THIS DECEMBER 15-JAN 11! REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE 3 DAY TRIAL AT WWW.LEVELUPGAMES.PH.

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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*
Congratulations to last week's winners: 1) Ricky C. Balingit, Lubao, Pampanga 2) Marie Antoinette E. Fernandez, QC 3) James Edison T. Sablay, Davao City
To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung
*SEE PROMO PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

FROM THE 3-PART GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY COMICBOOKS BY MANGO COMICS

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

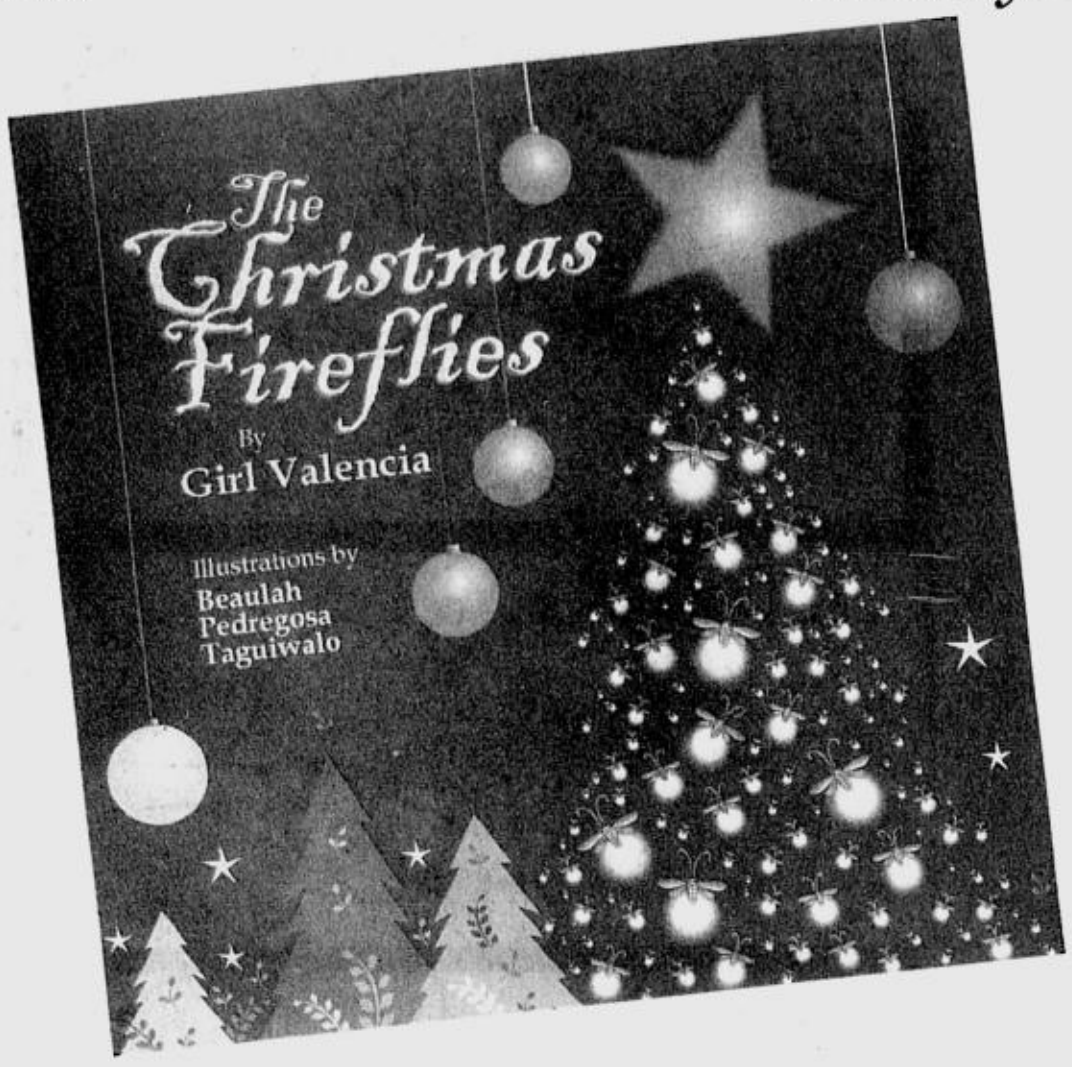
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT



HAPPY KIDS from World Vision (above) get a holiday treat at the launch of "Christmas Fireflies" (left).

Kiddie Xmas party with a twist

THE LAUNCH of the book "Christmas Fireflies" by singer-songwriter Girl Valencia was also a Christmas party for poor children who were beneficiaries of World Vision.

Hosted by an unlikely group of writers, publishers, businessmen and social workers, the launch-cum-Christmas party was held at the SM Storyland in Las Piñas. The fun center sent out all its four mascots to entertain the kids during the party and gave the kids unlimited access to the rides.

Two of the country's largest fast food chains, Jollibee and Shakey's, donated all the food for all the kids. Toy Kingdom gave all the toys for the exchange gifts and prizes for the games.

Started in Asia in 1950 by a missionary named Bob Pierce, World Vision has been doing work through an autonomous local chapter as early as 1957.

Some years ago, Valencia received an invitation from World Vision to sponsor a poor child by providing for his or her school supplies and daily allowance. To this day, Valencia is the proud sponsor of a little girl named Gemma who lives in Pangasinan. They have been writing to each other, sending each other photos once in a while. Gemma is about 14 years old and a high school student now, but she has yet to meet her benefactor in person.

At the book launching, World Vision's in-house storyteller Melody Remorca interpreted "Christmas Fireflies."

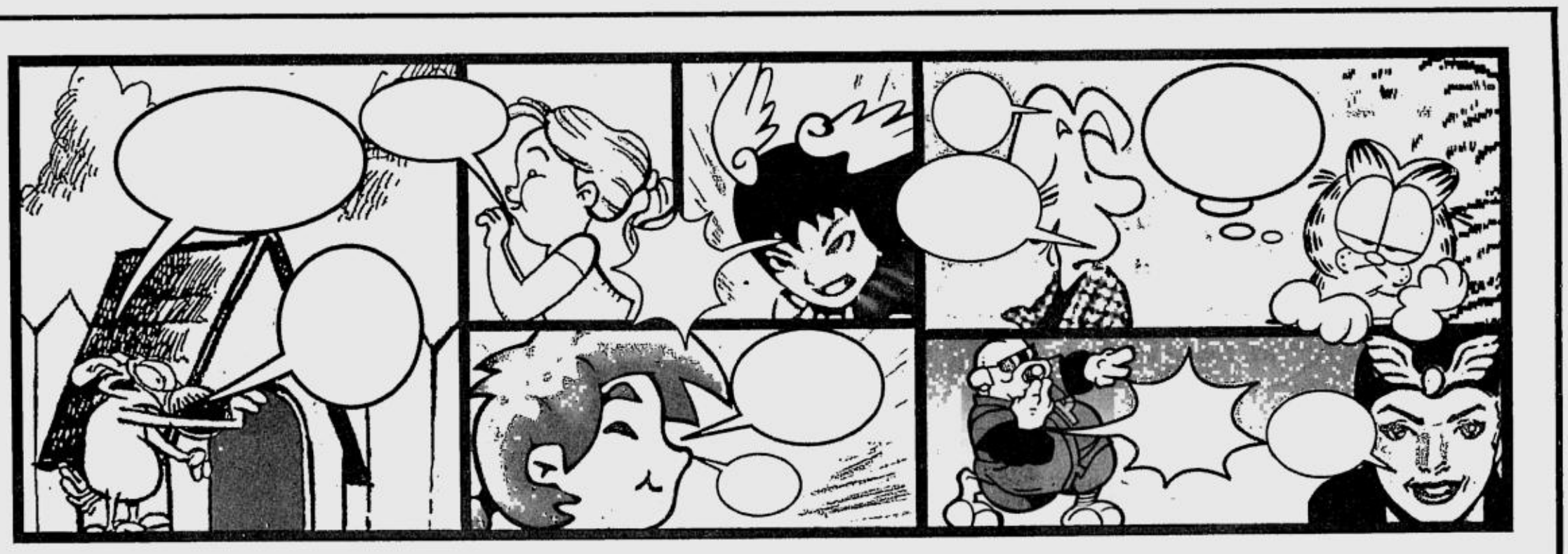
The story talks about Santa Claus, fireflies, and a mother's love. In this simple yet riveting adventure, we see a little girl who helps her father make a living, who has courage in her heart, and who never hesitates to help those in need.

The book's illustrations are by Beaulah Pedragosa Taguiwalo.

"Christmas Fireflies," published by Papertree Publishing and printed locally by Raintree Publishing using a new lamination technology for the cover, is initially available at the National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Fully Booked at the Rockwell mall.

World Vision Development Foundation is at 55 Maginhawa St., UP Village, Diliman, QC. Call 9270676 to 79, fax 9210155/9290901.

CHRISTMAS STARS. Author Girl Valencia with illustrator Beaulah Pedregosa Taguiwalo, who has designed and illustrated more than 30 published titles.



ANONG SAY MO?

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday TEXT PROMO

Vote for your favorite comic strip via text and get a chance to win exciting prizes in the weekly and Grand Draw!

Mechanics:

1. Read Inquirer Comics Sunday every week and vote for your favorite comic strip among these titles:

   A. Ragnarok
   B. Darna
   C. Garfield
   D. Mothergoose and Grimm
   E. Pugad Baboy
   F. Inday Wanda
   G. Zits
   H. Full House

2. To vote, type:

   INQVOTE <Corresponding letter of title> / <Full Name> / <Age> / <City>

3. Send to 291 for SMART and 2949 for Globe.
4. The more text messages you send, the more chances to win.
5. Voting opens every Sunday at 6AM of each week and closes on the Thursday at 12NN of the following week.
6. Winners will be drawn via electronic raffle. There will be three (3) weekly winners and one (1) Grand Draw winner.
7. Draw dates are as follows:

Week Number	Period	Draw Date
1	November 21 - November 25	November 25
2	November 28 - December 2	December 2
3	December 5 - December 9	December 9
4	December 12 - December 16	December 16
5	December 19 - December 23	December 23
6	December 26 - December 30	December 30
7	January 2 - January 6	January 6
8	January 9 - January 13	January 13
9	January 16 - January 20	January 20
10	January 23 - January 27	January 27

8. Weekly draws will be every Thursday at 2PM facilitated by a DTI representative.
9. Grand Draw is on January 27, 2005.
10. All texters from the beginning until the end of the promo are qualified for the Grand Draw.
11. Weekly winners can only win once per week but they are also qualified for the Grand Draw.
12. Prizes:

    Grand Draw

    First Prize: 1 Personal Computer
    Second Prize: 1 Cellular Phone
    Third Prize: 1 Gift Pack from Fully Booked or Filbar's

    Weekly Draw

    Each weekly winner will receive the following:
    - Comic books from Fully Booked
    - Comic books, fun items and gift certificates from Filbar's
    - Ragnarok fun items from Levelup!

13. Weekly and Grand Prize winners will be notified via text message. Names of the winners will also be posted in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
14. Winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office upon presentation of a valid ID plus the SMS notification.
15. Prizes not claimed within 15 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Philippine Daily Inquirer.
16. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors, their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

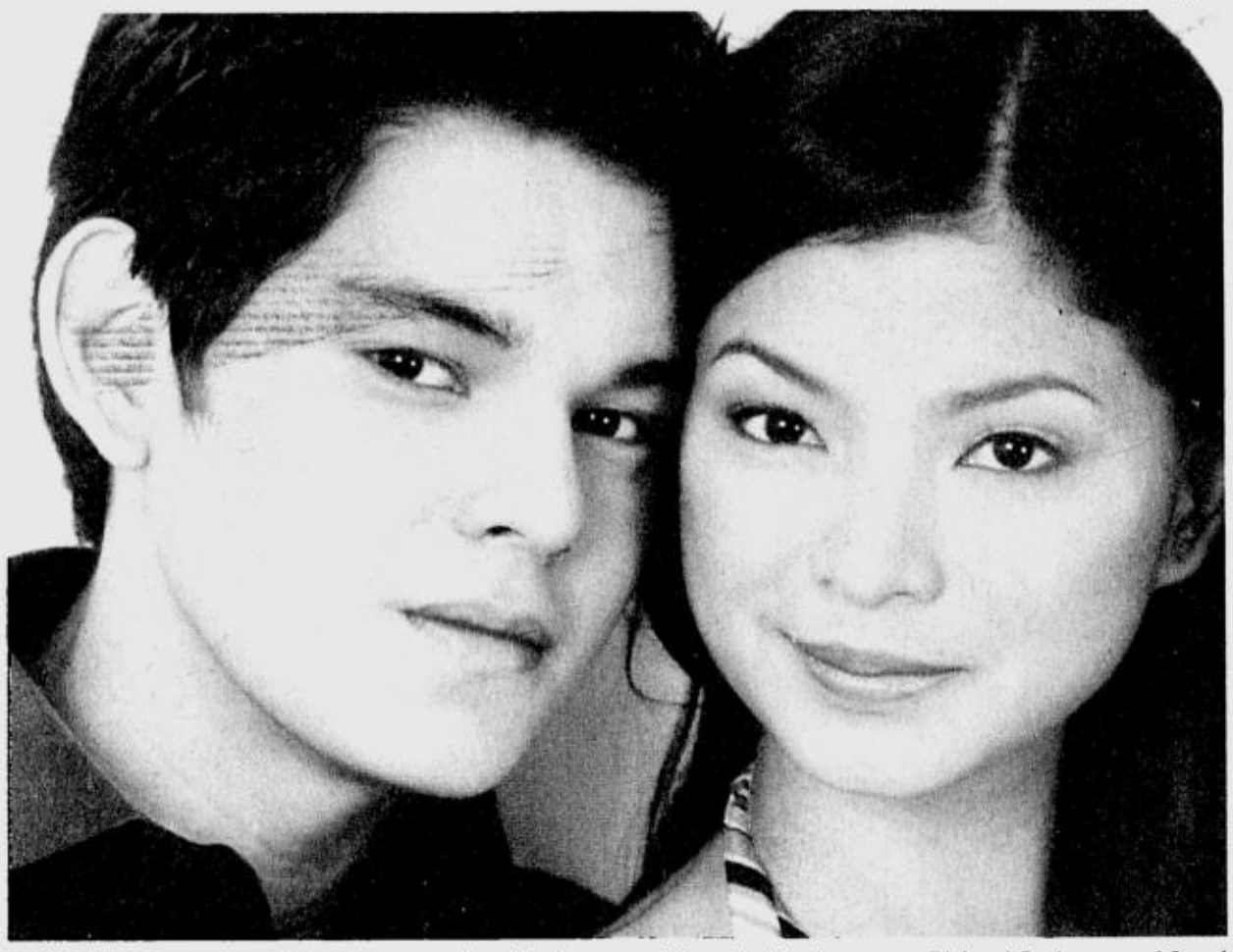
levelupgames.ph FILBAR'S RAGNAROK FULLY BOOKED

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



BEST LOOKERS. Troubled characters are played by the screen's best-looking love team, Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin, in the Yam Laranas movie.

Martha Stewart out of the clink and back to her TV show next year /4

'Sigaw': A big jolt every few minutes

ON CHRISTMAS Day, filmmaker Yam Laranas and scriptwriter Roy Iglesias ("Feng Shui") take moviegoers on a heart-stopping ride via the supernatural story, "Sigaw."

A Megavision presentation line produced by Regal Entertainment Inc., "Sigaw" showcases the best-looking love team in the country today, Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin. The horrifying story of rage and retribution also stars Jomari Yllana, Iza Calzado, James Blanco, Ronnie Lazaro, and "Starstruck Kids" finalist Ella Guevarra.

Richard Gutierrez plays Marvin, a young man who has spent all his savings to buy an apartment unit in a decaying building. He realizes that his building is haunted when a little girl sometimes appears and disappears in his unit, and an unseen spirit attacks his lovely girlfriend, Pinky (Angel Locsin) during one of her surprise visits.

Other questions trouble Marvin. Why is the pretty Ana (Iza Calzado) always visiting Jude (James Blanco), the other tenant in the building? Is Jude having an affair with Ana, as her policeman husband (Jomari Yllana) suspects? What do all these people have to do with Marvin?

More than anyone involved with "Sigaw," director Yam Laranas can't wait to show his latest movie to an audience who wants a good scare this Christmas.

"'Sigaw' will jolt the audience every few minutes," says Laranas. "That's a promise."

As an avid moviegoer himself, Laranas is particularly excited about the sequence in the movie where Richard and Angel are followed by ghosts inside a moviehouse.

"I can't wait to see how viewers react to the moviehouse scene," says an eager Laranas. "Maybe after watching 'Sigaw' people will take a good look at those sitting on either side of them in the darkened theater."

The theme of a haunted theater actually also echoed behind the cameras. The location which doubles as Marvin's apartment building is actually the old, abandoned Avenue theater on Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila, and cast and crew swear that the Avenue is haunted.

Line producer Lily Monteverde spent a small fortune renovating the Avenue, and the activity seems to have reawakened a few restless spirits.

The bone-chilling experiences of the "Sigaw" cast and crew will be recounted in a future episode of the horror reality television show, "Wag Kukurap."

For those who are too scared to visit a real haunted theater, watching "Sigaw" in a moviehouse can be scary enough, especially since the movie uses the world-class Dolby Digital sound system. Ghostly moans, screams and whispers sound like they're coming from just a couple of feet away.

"Sigaw" is directed and strikingly photographed by Yam Laranas. Story and screenplay are by Laranas and the award-winning Roy Iglesias. "Sigaw" starts haunting theaters on Dec. 25, as an official entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival Philippines.

Let the screaming begin . . .

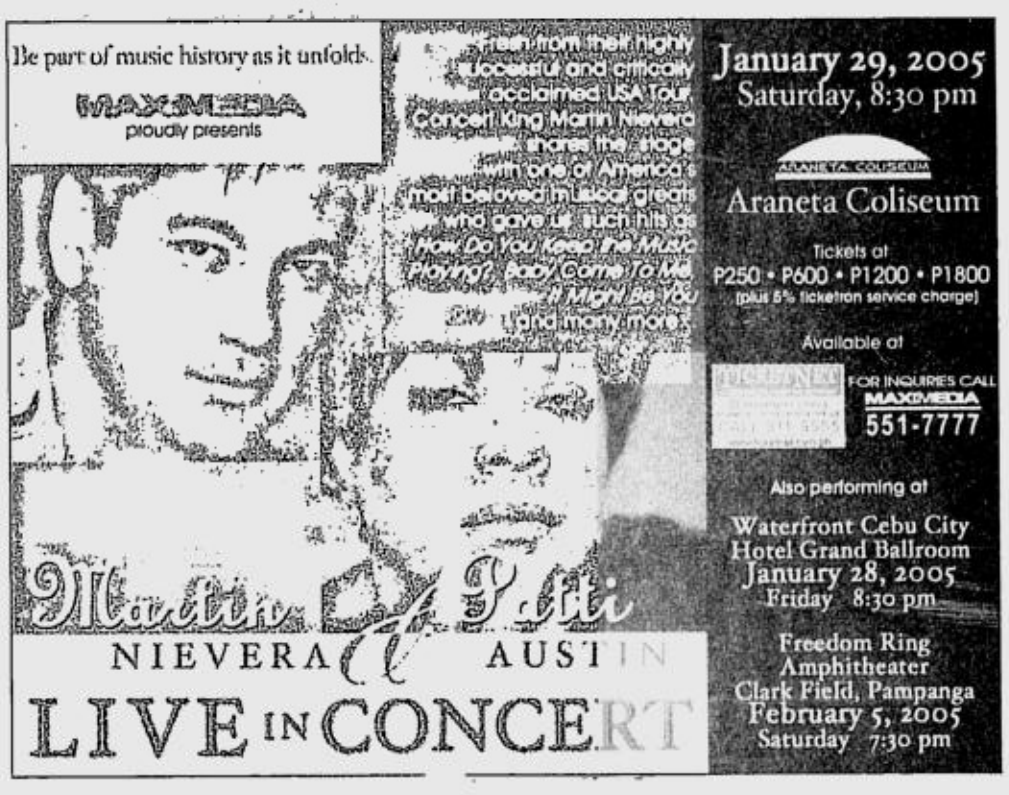
SARAH Geronimo at SM City North Edsa

Sarah throws party for fans

IT'S BEEN a very good year for Sarah Geronimo.

The year gave Sarah a quintuple-platinum award for her "Popstar" album, hit concerts "Night of the Champions" and "Pinoy Idols," a US tour, TV shows "Asap Mania" and "Sarah,

SARAH/3



SM CINEMA

movietime

what to watch

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

2 BIRTH

MTRCB RATING: R13 **2046**

SM Southmall Cinema 10 | SM Megamall Cinema 7 | SM North Edsa Cinema 8 | SM Manila Cinema 6

ALEXANDER MTRCB RATING: R13

SM Manila Cinema 4 | SM North Edsa Cinema 1 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3 | SM Southmall Cinema 8 | SM Fairview Cinema 7 | SM Tutuban Cinema 4 | SM Megamall Cinema 6

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **BIRTH**

SM Southmall Cinema 3 | SM North Edsa Cinema 5 | SM Megamall Cinema 5 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9 | SM Manila Cinema 7

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM Manila Cinema 11 | SM Megamall Cinema 12 | SM Fairview Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4 | SM Southmall Cinema 1

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **NED KELLY**

SM Fairview Cinema 4 | SM Tutuban Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8 | SM Southmall Cinema 4 | SM Manila Cinema 5 | SM Megamall Cinema 2

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R 13

SM Manila Cinema 8 | SM North Edsa Cinema 4 | SM Megamall Cinema 9 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 2 | SM Bicutan Cinema 3 | SM Sucat Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **PA-SIYAM**

SM Bicutan Cinema 2 | SM North Edsa Cinema 3 | SM Manila Cinema 9 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 1 | SM Megamall Cinema 8 | SM Southmall Cinema 7 | SM Sucat Cinema 2 | SM Fairview Cinema 5 | SM Tutuban Cinema 3

BCUZ OF U SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 12 | SM Megamall Cinema 11 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10 | SM Fairview Cinema 8 | SM Southmall Cinema 9

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 2 | SM North Edsa Cinema 2 | SM Megamall Cinema 3 | SM Tutuban Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB Rating: G
SM Megamall Cinema 1 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 7 | SM Southmall Cinema 5 | SM Manila Cinema 3 | SM Fairview Cinema 8

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G
SM Manila Cinema 1 | SM Fairview Cinema 6 | SM North Edsa Cinema 7 | SM Megamall Cinema 3 | SM Southmall Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5 | SM Sucat Cinema 4 | SM Bicutan Cinema 4

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB RATING: PG13
SM Fairview Cinema 10

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

OPENS TODAY at SM LIVE! CINEMA

Trumpets

PETER PAN AND THE TIME MACHINE
SM MEGAMALL
Cinema 10

Saturday-Sunday
December 11, 12 and 18; 11am, 3pm, 6pm

Sunday
December 19; 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Tickets are available at:
Trumpets Office
633-5010
636-2842
trumpets@compass.com.ph

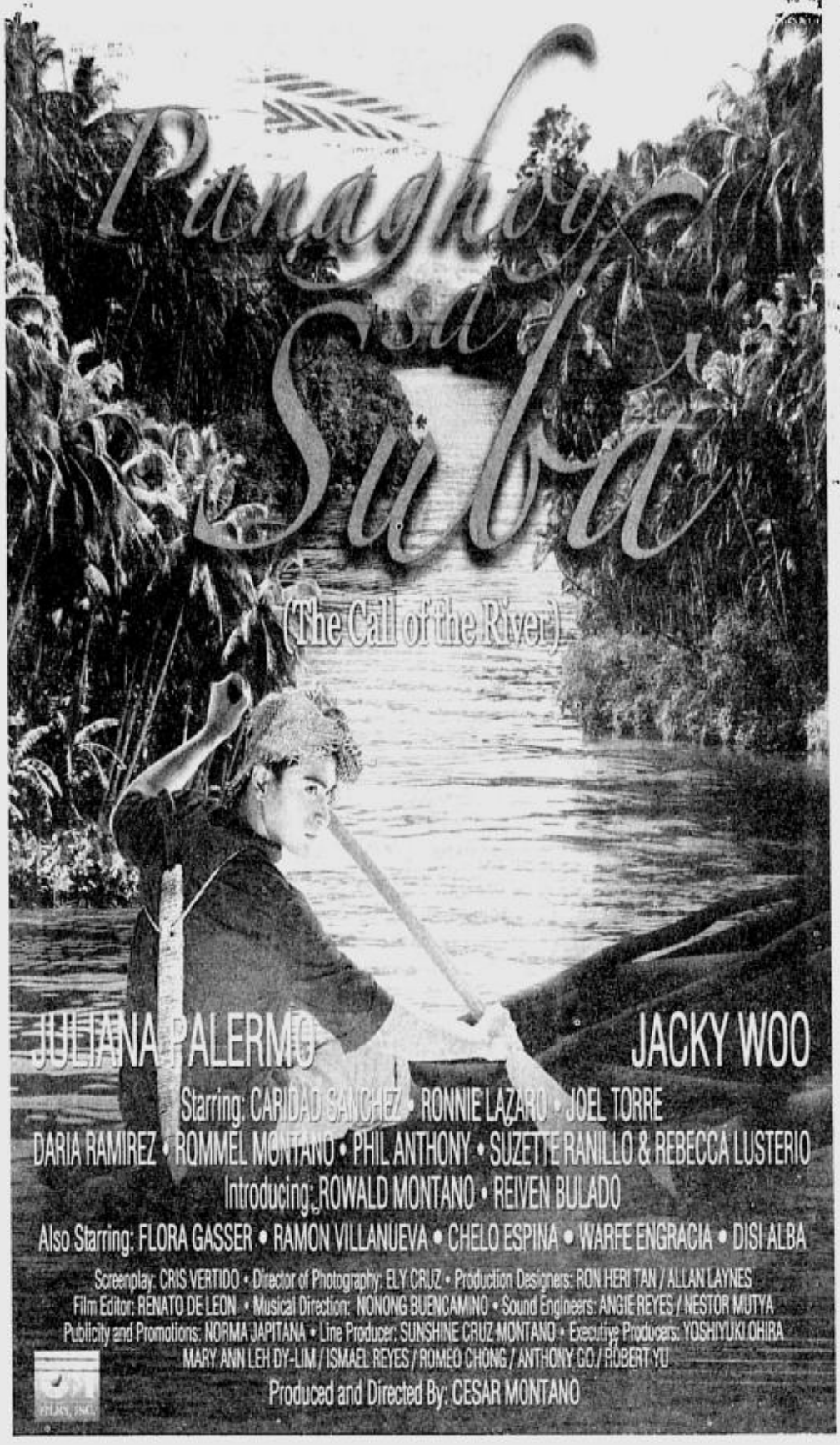
Ticket Prices:
P350 - Orchestra
P250 - Balcony

Ticketnet
911-5555

National Bookstore
TICKETWORLD
891-9999

Also available at the SM Cinema Ticket Booths at SM Megamall on December 11,12 and 18, 2004

CESAR MONTANO



MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Hang Cinerplex
Telephone: 533.7777 / 533.7751 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
1 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS GP
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES PG13
3 (DOLBY) GEORGE AND THE DRAGON GP
4 (DOLBY) 2046 R13

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) PA-SIYAM
2 (SDDS) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 (GOLD DTS) 2046
5 (GOLD DOLBY) BIRTH
6 (GOLD SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 (GOLD DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (DDS) BCUZ OF U
9 (SDDS) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (SDDS) BRIDGET JONES

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BIRTH
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DOLBY) 2046

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Ayala Center
GREENBELT CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
5 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
6 (Dolby) PA SIYAM
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

Isetann Cinerama
SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BIRTH
2. ALEXANDER
3. NED KELLY
4. ONE MISSED CALL
5. SALAT

Masagana Cinema Video
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 PASIYAM
3 SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Marketmarket
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 THE SIN
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SALAT
2 SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GINGER SNAP
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 SKY CAPTAIN
4 (DTS) SALAT

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALEXANDER
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

Metropolis Starmall
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BIRTH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 PA-SIYAM
4 BCUZ OF U
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONA TREASURE

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES
2 GINGER SNAPS 2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Manna is Santa' at Merk's

'TIS THE season to be jolly, especially at Merk's Bar Bistro.

Share your blessings this holiday season by donating gifts for the underprivileged children of the Olongapo Boys and Girls Home, the Centex kids and the Bantay Bata Foundation.

The gifts will be given today, Sunday, 6-8 p.m., during "Manna is Santa." Listen to Christmas carols and have fun and games while sharing.

Also at Merk's, Acoustic Jive performs on Dec. 23 and 30. Pop collective Forte brings retro music on Dec. 17. Cruzin' takes center stage on Dec. 15, 16, 18 and 31. Route 70 plays on all Tuesdays of December.

Voice of Asia winner Ladine Roxas spices up Mondays with Trio. Merk & Friends, featuring Richard Merk, Sandra Lim and Eddie Katindig, perform on Dec. 22 and 29. Romy Posadas and Mae take turns wowing the Happy Hour crowd.

Merk's Bar Bistro is on the third level of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Visit www.merksbarbistro.com for more bar bistro news. Music lovers can also e-mail Merk's at mail@merksbarbistro.com.

For more information, call Merk's Bar Bistro at 7574720 or 7574721. For daily schedules, text ctc gig merks and send to 2333 (Globe) and 225 (Smart).

SHOW TIME

Disney fashion shows at SM malls

THE DISNEY Princess line of girls' clothing will stage a series of fashion shows featuring its 2005 collection today, Sunday, at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, on Dec. 17 at SM Fairview, and on Dec. 20 at SM North Edsa.

All shows start at 3 p.m.

Disney Princess showcases the beautiful characters of Disney classics Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Ariel and Belle. Disney Princess Infants is for kids up to 3 years old, while Disney Princess Children is for girls 4 to 12 years old.

For the holidays, shoppers can visit the Disney Princess booths at the lobby of all SM department stores nationwide for shirts, dresses, jackets, denim pants, knits and others.

The Disney Princess line is available in the infants' and children's wear sections of all SM department stores, Rustan's Makati, Landmark, Ever Gotesco Plaza and Sta. Lucia, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Mall, Bacolod, Ermita and Pasig, and at the Metro Market Department Store (Fort).

Sarah... From page 1

the Teen Princess," her first lead role in a movie as Mark Bautista's love interest in "Lastikman," commercial endorsements and her equally successful second album, "Sweet Sixteen."

To thank her fans for their support, Sarah—with the help of Jollibee, Charmee, Manila North Tollways Corp. (the new North Luzon Expressway), MYX, Freego, Skechers, Video City, Discovery Suites and Viva Records—is throwing a big party today at 2 p.m. at SM City North Edsa.

Sarah's fans will have the chance to have picture-taking and autograph sessions with Sarah, as well as join parlor games and win prizes. Sarah will be singing songs from "Sweet Sixteen," including the hit single, "How Could You Say You Love Me," written by Vehnee Saturno, who also wrote her first big hit, "Forever's Not Enough."

The new album, recently launched on "Asap Mania," features 18 cuts that are a mix of revivals, originals and power ballads. Also airing now is the music video of "How Could You Say You Love Me."

Sarah's special guests this afternoon include Mark Bautista, Raymond Manalo, Jayanne and the cast of "Lastikman."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3&4 POLAR EXPRESS-XMAS W/ KRANKS, BRIDGET JONES/GEORGE & D DRAGON/2046	
PREMIERE THEATRE	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HELL WOLF!
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ONE MISSED CALL
CINEMA-12	BIRTH
CINEMA-14	PASIYAM
CINEMA-15	BCUZ OF U

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BIRTH
10:40, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:05
PG-13

2 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
PG-13

3 NATIONAL TREASURE
11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:30
GP

4 2046
12:00, 2:40, 5:20 8:00, 10:40
R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

ALEXANDER R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15
THE INCREDIBLES GP 12:10,2:40,5:10 ONE MISSED CALL R13 7:40,10:00	GEORGE AND THE DRAGON GP - 11:45,1:55,4:05 2046 R13 6:30,9:10	NED KELLY PG13 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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4 Alexander	2 Salat sa Ligaya	2 Ginger Snaps 2
5 Salat sa Ligaya	3 Pa-Siyam	Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase
	4 Bcuz of U	
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	6 National Treasure	

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CINEMA 1: 2046 10:25, 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:35 R13
CINEMA 2: BIRTH 11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55 P13

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1 POLAR EXPRESS (GP) FS 10 45AM 3 15PM, LMF 7 45PM
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (GP) FS 1 00PM, 5 30PM, LMF 10 00PM

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11 45AM, 2 15PM 4 45PM, 7 15PM, LMF 9 45PM (PG-13)

3 GEORGE & THE DRAGON FS 11 35AM, 2 00PM 4 25PM, 6 50PM LMF 9 15PM (GP)

4 2046 FS 10 50AM, 1 30PM 4 10PM, 6 50PM, LMF 9 30PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE NATIONAL TREASURE (GP) FS 11:20AM,2PM,4:40PM,7:20PM,LMF 10:00PM

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00
6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:40 2:50
2046 4:50 7:25 10:00
7 TWO BROTHERS 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 PA-SIYAM 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 NED KELLY 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 THE INCREDIBLES 10:20 12:45 3:10
ONE MISSED CALL 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 BIRTH 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50
2 THE INCREDIBLES 10:40 1:10 3:40
ONE MISSED CALL 6:10 8:15 10:00
5 RESERVE
3 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:35 12:00 3:05
2046 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 NED KELLY 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:15 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
7 BIRTH 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/89 / 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
5 BIRTH 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
2 ALEXANDER 10:55 2:20 5:45 9:10
6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
3 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:55 1:25 3:55 6:25 9:00
7 ONE MISSED CALL 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40 10:30
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
8 PA-SIYAM 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

NOVALICHES 661-4228

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15
5 BCUZ OF U 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
6 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
3 HELLWOLF 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 SYLVIA 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
8 THE INCREDIBLES 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

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3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:05 2:55 5:45 8:45
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:45 1.10 3.35 6:00 8.25
4 NED KELLY 11:30 1.50 4.10 6:30 8:50

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575

1 SAW 11:45 1:45 4:05 6:15 8:30
3 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3.50 6:10 8:30
2 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:45 1:45 4:05 6:15 8.30
4 NAKAW NA SANDALI 11:45 1:45 4.05 6:15 8.30

CAINTA 240-4881

1 ALEXANDER 12:00 2:55 5:50 8:45
3 PA-SIYAM 10.10 12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10.35 1.20 4:45 8:45
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 11.00 1.20 3.45 6:00 8:20

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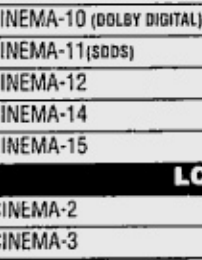

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3 ALEXANDER 2.10 5 40 9 10
4 BRIDGET JONES 12 50 3 10 5 30 7 50 10 10
5
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9
10

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4 BRIDGET JONES 11 40 2 00 4 20 6 40 9 00
5 ONE MISSED CALL 11 30 1 50 4 10 6 30 8 55
6 PA SIYAM 11 30 1 50 4 10 6 30 8 55
7 BCUZ OF U 11 00 1 20 3 40 6 00 8 20

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Martha Stewart out of the clink and back to her TV show next year

NEW YORK—Martha Stewart may still be in the clink, but it appears there's no caging her appeal as a television domestic diva.

Stewart will revive her daily homemaking show next September, it was announced Wednesday—this time before a live audience, with celebrity guests and the help of "The Apprentice" producer Mark Burnett.

Stewart, not allowed to conduct business in prison, was not involved in the deal with NBC Universal to syndicate the show but is "very pleased," said Susan Lyne, president of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

NBC-owned stations in 14 US cities have already agreed to air the daytime show, and deals will be sought in other cities.

"Millions of people feel that Martha got a raw deal," Burnett said. "America loves comeback stories."

Confined to Bedford

Stewart and her former stockbroker were convicted in March of lying to investigators about why she sold ImClone Systems Inc. stock in 2001.

Stewart, who's appealing her conviction, is serving a five-month sentence at a minimum-security federal prison for women in Alderson, West Virginia. She'll be released next March.

For five months after that, she will be fitted with an ankle bracelet and confined to her Bedford, New York, estate, but allowed to conduct business for 48 hours a week.

Her old show, "Martha Stewart Living," was put on hiatus last summer after its 11th season. She will tread familiar territory on the yet-to-be-titled new show, including cooking, entertaining, decorating and home renovation.

Burnett said he watched several hours of outtakes from "Martha Stewart Living" and often found them more entertaining and reflective of her personality than the show itself. Interaction with a studio audience and guests will add a new element to what she does, he said.

Judging by celebrities who turned out at Stewart's trial to offer support—Rosie O'Donnell, Bill Cosby and Brian Dennehy—Burnett said he expected many to be willing to appear as guests.

SHOW STOPPER

Stewart went into prison promising to learn something new every day, Lyne said. "Knowing her, I am convinced that much of it will end up on the show," she said.

Burnett and NBC Universal Television Group chief Jeff Zucker would not comment on whether they have any prime time plans for Stewart, including whether she might someday be a candidate to replace Donald Trump on "The Apprentice."

Fading ratings

At a news conference at Martha Stewart Living headquarters in Manhattan, the executives took pains to say they had not talked business with Stewart since her sentence started. Burnett said he and Zucker first met with her last spring.

"I cannot wait until she gets out of jail and we can start to work together," he said.

Her old show had been slowly fading in the ratings before being put on hold.

Still, her return "has a pretty good shot," said Bill Carroll, an expert on television syndication for Katz Television.

"You're talking about somebody who has a core following," Carroll said. "You're also talking about someone about whom there is a curiosity and a sympathy for. All of those play in her favor." *AP*

FREE BY MARCH. Martha Stewart is serving a five-month sentence at a federal prison for women in West Virginia and will be released next March. AP

7 princesses with their own castles in 'Disney on Ice'

TRANSPORTED. The audience will take a magic carpet ride, go under the sea, enter the enchanted forest, among other destinations.

CELEBRATE Christmas with seven Disney princesses in "Disney on Ice Presents Princess Classics" at the Araneta Coliseum, starting on Christmas Day.

For its 23rd production, Disney on Ice has created its largest, most intricate setting—a three-story, breathtaking castle that twists, turns and transforms to bring seven royal Disney fairy tales to life.

SHOW TIME

Dive into an undersea party with Ariel and Prince Eric in "The Little Mermaid." Escape on a magic carpet ride with Jasmine and "Aladdin." Enter the enchanted forest with "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Journey to ancient China with Mushu to help brave "Mulan" fulfill her destiny. Make magic with Flora to help save "Sleeping Beauty." Rejoice as Belle's love turns The Beast into a fine-looking prince in "Beauty and the Beast." Go back to the 18th century to witness how a handsome prince fell in love with the beautiful "Cinderella."

The Araneta Coliseum audience will be transported to the fantasy world of classic fairy tales and beloved Disney princesses. The scenic designer has created a castle backdrop for each princess: an 18th century design for "Cinderella;" an Arabian palace for Jasmine in "Aladdin;" an underwater kingdom for Ariel in "The Little Mermaid;" a medieval castle for Princess Aurora in "Sleeping Beauty;" a French, stained-glass feel for Belle in "Beauty and the Beast;" a Far Eastern fortress for "Mulan;" and a Tyrolean setting for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

"Disney on Ice Presents Princess Classics" will have performances on Dec. 25-30 and Jan. 1-3. Tickets for P1,215 (VIP); P1,000 (Patron/Lower Box); P790 (Upper Box A Premium); P580 (Upper Box A); P320 (Upper Box B), and P105 (General Admission) are now available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and at the Araneta Box Office.

"Disney on Ice Presents Princess Classics" is also presented by Gateway Mall and Globe Gizmo Prepaid. It is sponsored by Petron Treats, AIG Credit Cards, The Richmonde Hotel (official residence), Walt Disney Home Entertainment, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Journalists Inc., Asian Vision Cable Holdings Inc., Phone-A-Car, ABS-CBN, Studio 23, and Lifestyle with dwRR, 99.5 RT, Magic 89.9, 103.5 K-Lite, Jam 88.3, and Wave 89.1 as radio partners.

For ticket inquiries, call 911-5555. For group sales, call 911-3101 loc. 8293.

Reuben at Calesa Bar

HYATT Regency Manila's Calesa Bar will feature singer-composer-actor Reuben Laurente on Friday, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m.

Reuben has been the baritone/tenor of The CompanY since 1991. He was the voice behind such memorable hits such as "Special Memory," "Sana Nga Ikaw Na," "Pakisabi na Lang," "Pag Nagkataon," and the group's latest single, "Hindi Na."

As a composer, he has written music for singers like Regine Velasquez, Dingdong Avanzado, Ayen Munji-Laurel and Sarah Geronimo. He also recently appeared in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Himala The Musical."

As a vocalist, Reuben suavely shifts from one musical genre to another, one minute crooning the melodies of traditional American pop as a finger-snapping swing singer, the next belting Broadway tunes with breath control that spins out the kind of long final notes that elicit cheers from the audience, and then romancing his audience with his sweet renditions of foreign and OPM songs.

Yet another side of him is a standup entertainer who wisecracks, mugs, does comic shtick, and enjoys relating to every kind of audience.

Just like Michael Feinstein, who serves as one of recent musical influences, the best part of being a musician for Reuben is connecting with other people through his music.

In this special show at the Calesa Bar, Reuben will sing classic hits from the Great American Songbook popularized by Micheel Bublé and Feinstein, including some dance music, Christmas songs and popular songs from his hardcore musical influences, with a tribute to The Carpenters, Stevie Wonder, Michel Legrand, Ryan Cayabyab and Jose Mari Chan.

Accompanying Reuben are talented musicians Demi Lumacad (piano), Ray Ama (sax and flute) and Arnold Agcaoili (acoustic bass).

REUBEN Laurente on Friday

For reservations, call Hyatt Regency Manila at 833-1234.

Special thanks to Calesa Bar of Hyatt, Jose Mari Chan, Mickey Muñoz, Farid Schoucair, Joanne Lorenzana, photography by Ronnie Salvacion and Skincare by Olai Ramos-Spiritu of White Skin Philippines, Unit 519 Cityland Shaw Tower, 637-2567.

Center for Pop launches star training course on reality TV

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines will launch "Startist," the first reality TV training course for stardom, starting tomorrow, Dec. 13, on UNTV UHF 37 (Sky Cable Ch. 95, Home Cable Ch. 59), from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

The show, to be aired Monday to Friday, will present the participants' development from the start to the aftermath of training.

Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of the Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc., will conduct the reality TV training. Among the center's products are Sarah Geronimo, Erik Santos, Rachelle Ann Go, Sandara Park and Frenchie Dy.

"Startist" starts with 12 candidates, all students of various branches of the Center for Pop. They will join the "Startist" class on TV daily for two weeks. Four potential singing stars will be chosen for further development.

BUTCH Albarracin

The four "Startists" will be trained personally, live on TV, by Albarracin for 40 days in voice and stage performance, hosting, public speaking, personality development, acting and in other related fields.

Stardom strategies will be tackled by former recording executive Tato Malay, a Masscom professor at the Assumption College, Makati.

The most promising participant in the training will sign a contract for management and album recording with the Center for Pop Music Philippines.

"Startist" is hosted by Gwyneth Albarracin and cohosted by EM Lopez and Nick Lazaro. It is directed by professor Rene Molina and produced by Gwen Albarracin.

For details, visit the Center for Pop head office at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City, or call 723-9373, 727-5293 or 411-7310.

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- Handle user education and training
- Systems software support
- Assist user in determining information technology needs

Job Qualification

- Not over 30 years old; graduate of 4-year business course
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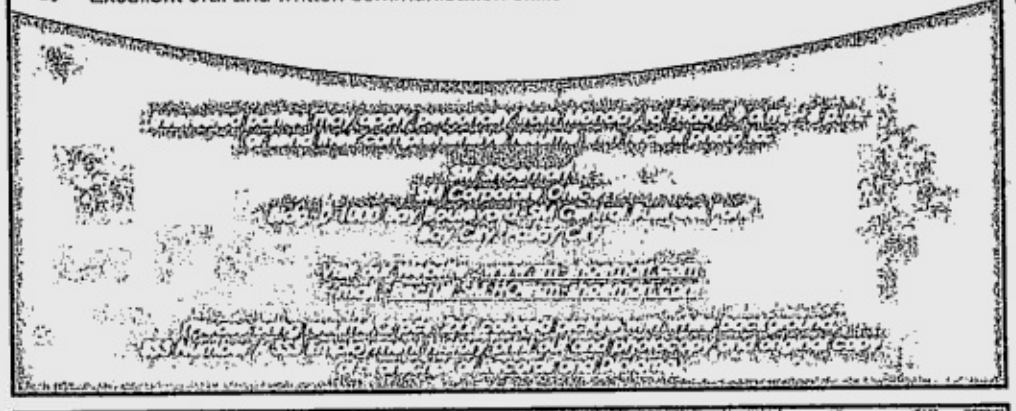
- Excellent oral and written communication skills



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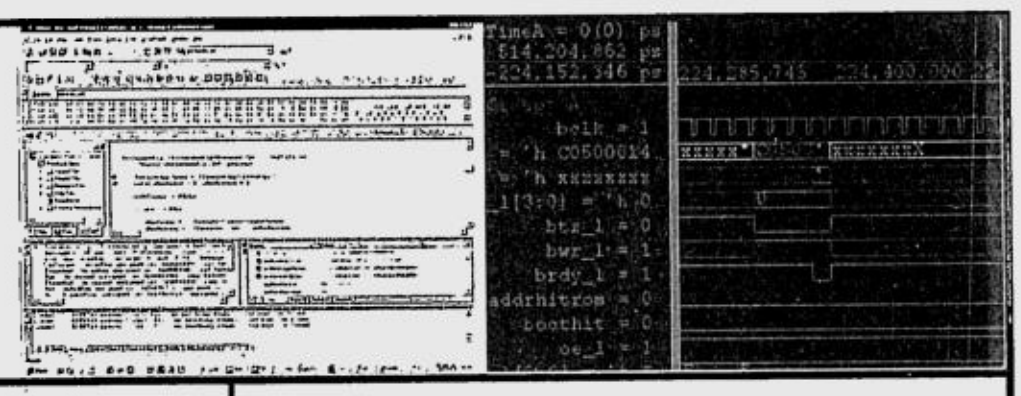
RECRUITMENT SECTION
FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.
#1 American Road Greenfield Autopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

"In Ford, we are not merely employees; we are partners in making Ford in the Philippines a leading consumer company of automotive products and services."

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), one of Canon's largest Product R&D center in the world, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. Located in Manila's premier Information Technology center, the company is home to the country's best Software, Hardware and QA engineers. We seek to recruit engineers for our current and future projects. The positions offer excellent technical and managerial career options for dynamic candidates. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities await qualified employees. An attractive compensation package will be offered.



Hardware Design & Verification Engineers

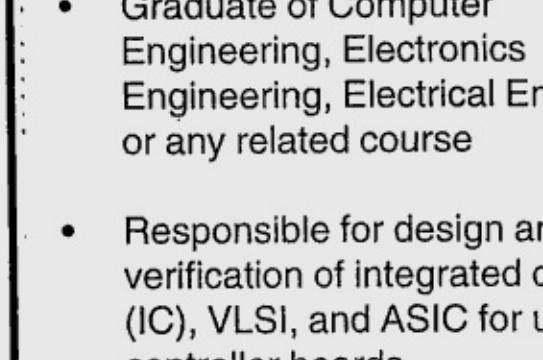
- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Electrical Engineering or any related course
- Responsible for design and verification of integrated circuits (IC), VLSI, and ASIC for use on controller boards
- Responsible for Register Transfer Level (RTL) design and verification, design modeling and evaluation
- Knowledgeable in computer architecture, electronic circuits, logic design, and microelectronics

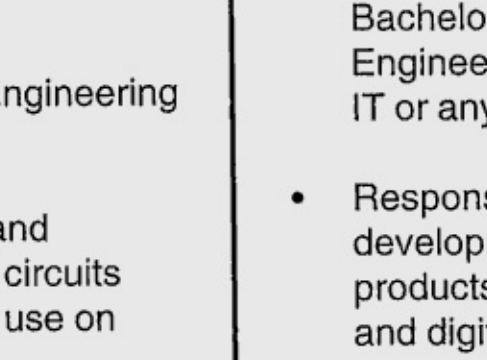
Software Engineers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, and Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts

Quality Assurance Engineers (Software Testing)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for conducting software testing, test planning, and test scripting
- Must have strong computer operation skills especially in various Microsoft Windows platforms and applications
- Persistent and with strong attention to detail





Please send a copy of your comprehensive resume with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resume and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

The **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**, with operations in the Philippines since 1875, is part of one of the world's leading and most strongly capitalized banking and financial services institutions. We are seeking applications from highly motivated, committed and sales and service-oriented individuals who wish to pursue a career in banking as:

PERSONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CLERICAL STAFF
GENERAL BANKING CLERICAL STAFF

Be part of HSBC's dynamic team of professionals who provide excellent service to customers in the branches and over the telephone and who can work in the operations areas that support the branches, credit cards and other businesses of the bank.

We are inviting applications from people with the following qualifications:

- College degree from a reputable university
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- A desire to work in the customer service area
- Highly motivated towards self-improvement
- Philippine citizenship (this is a requirement)

Qualified applicants will undergo a selection process, which includes a series of tests and interviews.

Training opportunities, an automated work environment, and an attractive remuneration package which recognises and rewards performance await qualified candidates.

If you can commit to a high pressure but rewarding career in banking and be part of HSBC's 129 years of financial service excellence in the Philippines, send a full curriculum vitae, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photograph, together with a letter outlining your suitability for the above position on or before 17 December 2004 to:

Vice President
Resourcing and Development
HSBC
35/F Discovery Suites
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

HSBC

The world's local bank

Respect and value people, cultures, differences and contributions

Encourage an open and honest environment

Support the company, our colleagues, our customer and our community

Practice what we preach and be role model for these operating principles

Enjoy the company of our colleagues, our work, and have fun

Committed listening to our colleagues and customers

Trust others and be trustworthy

At Pru Life Insurance Corporation of U.K. RESPECT is more than a value – it is the culture. We invite men and women to consider our current requirements and discover the culture of RESPECT amidst the highly exciting and competitive field of life insurance.

AGENCY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(North Mindanao, West Visayas, Bicol)

Must be 30-45 years old, a graduate of Management or Marketing and with a minimum of 5 years sales management and training experience with a reputable insurance or pre-need company. Has established residence in the area being considered. With a strong network and business contacts in the specific area of assignment.

REGIONAL MANAGER

(Visayas, Mindanao)

Must be at least 35 years old, a graduate of any business course and with a minimum of 8 years experience in life insurance agents recruitment, training and development, sales and agency management; With at least 3 years managerial experience. Has established residence in the area being considered.

You may submit your resumé, copy of transcript of records and ID picture to:

Human Resources Department
Pru Life Insurance Corporation of U.K.

25/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas and Dela Rosa Sts.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail address: HR@prulifeuk.com.ph
Website: www.prulife.com.ph

We're here to listen. PRU LIFE U.K.

LXML
ລ້ານຊ້ຽງ ມິເນໄຣນສ໌ ຈຳກັດ
LANE XANG MINERALS LIMITED

Oxiana LIMITED

Lane Xang Minerals Limited is a subsidiary of the international mining company Oxiana Limited and is currently operating the Sepon Gold Mine in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. Construction of a 60,000tpa copper plant is also underway, with production expected to commence in 2005.

The roster cycle for this position is 28/14/12. Whilst on site, employees live in a pleasant camp environment with laundry and meal services provided by the Company. Recreational facilities include a gym, volleyball and badminton courts, TV / Table Tennis and Pool Room.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the following position with a tentative commencement date of December 2004/January 2005.

SHIFT SUPERVISOR / TRAINER

Reporting to the Shift Coordinator the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Work in conjunction with the Operations Trainer and Shift Coordinators to implement pre-commissioning and training programs for Lao Nationals.
- Work in conjunction with LXML commissioning personnel to achieve commissioning targets.
- Achieve environmental, operational and maintenance targets within the company's safety system and KPI's.
- Consult widely with site (gold and copper) personnel to ensure all LXML operating and other procedures are adhered to.

To apply you will require over 5 years+ Process Operating (hands on) experience in the minerals processing industry, particularly in Copper/ Gold processing and be able to demonstrate good knowledge of hydrometallurgical processes. Sound knowledge and operating experience in commissioning, Supervision, Jameson cells, Flotation and Counter current decantation circuits is essential for this role.

In addition you will require good written and oral communication skills and sound knowledge of the MS Office suite of applications. Sensitivity to the Lao culture is essential in all expatriate roles, with previous experience in an overseas operation well regarded.

Further information regarding the Sepon project please visit our website at **www.oxiana.com.au.**

Interested applicants should send a resume, including referee details, by email to **thomason@lxmlmine.com** with the *POSITION TITLE* in the subject field. **Applications close on 15 December 2004.**

JOB ASIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES
License No. POEA-323-LB-070402-R
Tels 927-9096 / 4163110
4/F Columbian Bldg., 160 West Ave., near EDSA, Quezon City

For Manpower Pooling Only, Beware of Illegal Recruiters, No Fees to be collected

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FLUOR®

Build your career with *FLUOR*!!!

Fluor Daniel Inc. Philippines is a subsidiary of Fluor Corporation, one of the world's largest engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance companies.
Ranked by FORTUNE MAGAZINE as "THE GLOBAL MOST ADMIRED" in Engineering and Construction.
We are currently looking for candidates for the following positions to work on global projects.

Piping Designers

Degree in BS Mechanical Engineering or Civil Engineering. Has working knowledge on 3-D Intergraph with 2 to 3 years experience in PDS application. Produces orthographic drawings of piping/equipment areas and piping isometric drawings. Can do Piping Material Take-Off. Preferably with working knowledge of AutoCAD R13/14.

Piping Stress Engineers

Mechanical or Civil Engineer with a minimum of 5 years experience in Piping Stress Analysis. Knowledgeable in CAESAR II or AutoPIPE software. Capable in performing static and dynamic engineering, analysis and supervisory tasks.

Process Graphics

Engineering or Trade School Graduates with experience in updating and developing P&ID/PFD. Knowledge in use of intelligent P&ID softwares such as PDS2D, Smart Plant P&ID and REBIS is a plus factor.

Process Design Engineers

Chemical Engineer with a minimum of 5 year experience in Engineering and Design particularly in Oil and Gas Industry. Knowledgeable in P&ID development, equipment & instrument sizing, process simulation and hydraulic calculations. With analytical mind to perform process studies.

Mechanical Design Engineers

Mechanical Engineer with a minimum of 5 year experience in Design of pressure vessels, tanks and heat exchangers. Capable in preparing RFQ/RFP packages and Technical Bid Evaluation. Able to review Vendor documents. Familiar with ASME Code.

Structural Engineers

Structural Engineers with five years minimum work experience. Can generate and/or check engineering calculations, sketches and designs using computer aided and manual techniques for steel structures. Able to interface with other disciplines. Preferably with experience in petrochemical, oil and gas and light to heavy industrial facilities. Knowledge in STRUCAD 3D and SACS, Microstation or Autocadd preferred. With strong technical background and articulate.

Structural Designers

Structural Designers with five years minimum work experience. Steel structures related work experience in detailed engineering and design preferably in petrochemical, oil and gas and light to heavy industrial facilities. Knowledge in Microstation, Autocadd, Frameworks and/or Plant Design System required. Can prepare material take-off required for bill of materials listing. With strong technical background and articulate.

Estimators

Registered engineer with minimum of 5 years experience in estimating in oil, gas and petrochem projects. Good analytical and communication skills. Will assist in the preparation of estimates in all areas of specialty estimating. Develops quality material, labor and subcontract take-offs and coordinates information between Engineering Purchasing and Construction groups.

Preferred applicants:

1. Must have good moral character
2. Must be a Registered Engineer for Engineer positions
3. Knowledgeable in AUTOCAD or Microstation
4. Willing to undergo foreign assignment
5. Preferably with Offshore Experience

Remuneration will depend on applicant's related experience on the above requirements.
Successful candidates can expect a competitive compensation along with a rewarding career and opportunities.
Interested applicants may send your application letter, resume with picture, diploma and transcript of records to:

Ethel R. Castillo
or email: hr.apply@fluor.com
Human Resources Department
3/F Asian Star Bldg., Asean Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP.
BLOCK C #9 K. PORONG STREET, PUNTURIN.
VALENZUELA CITY
TEL # 443-43-21 / 443-40-50 / 443-40-70 / 432-68-64
Fax # 984-31-99

Wanted Immediately:

One (1) ACCOUNTING CLERK:

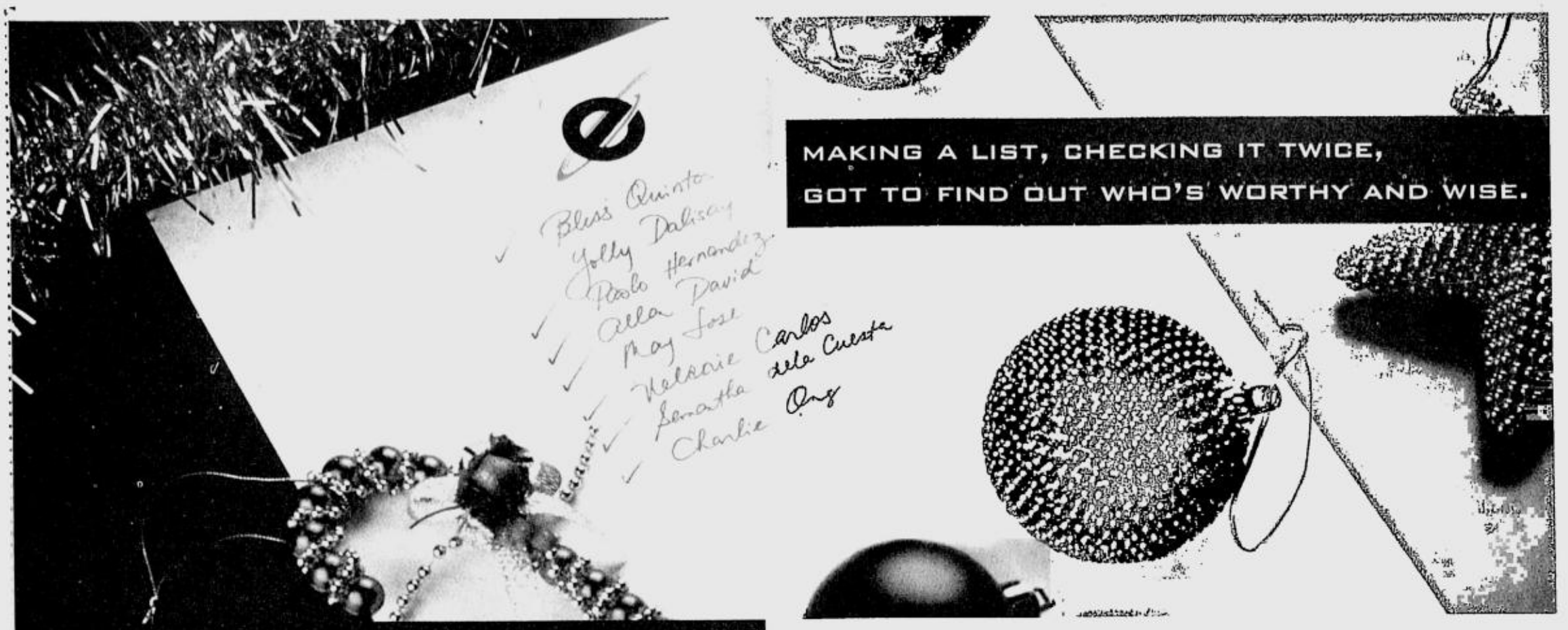
- Female, between 22 - 30 years old
- Accountancy graduate and computer literate
- At least one (1) year experience on same position an advantage
- Fast learner and hardworking

Screening of applicants everyday from 1PM to 4PM
Contact Irene (Personnel) at 443-43-21
for inquiries and appointments
E-mail address: ireneb_ph@fashionexpress.com.hk

THE KANA PHIL TOUR
is in need of the following:

- **RESERVATION STAFF**
- **ACCOUNTING STAFF**
  - Knowledgeable in Amadeous & Abacus System
  - With experience in a Travel Agency
  - Residence of Parañaque or Pasay is a must

Interested applicants may submit their Resumé and other credentials or you may call **8214761, 8213676, 7761331.**



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE EXTRA PICKY.
ETELECARE, THE WORLD'S MOST AWARDED AND LARGEST ASIA-BASED CALL CENTER GIVES AWAY THE MARKS TO THOSE WILLING TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE.

It is not going to be easy, but the pay-off is great - a rewarding career with excellent growth opportunities, comprehensive training and mentoring programs, as well as a fun and supportive work atmosphere where every idea is encouraged and each success is celebrated. Of course, it comes with a very generous compensation and benefits package that is unrivalled in the industry.

And oh! The thrill to be working with the industry's best...incomparable.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark.

So, will you make it to the list?

Calling all Manila professionals!

If you'd like to work with a world-class company located in the leisure and business paradise of the Philippines, eTelecare CC4, the biggest call center in Cebu City, welcomes you!
Be one of eTelecare's 23 Team Leaders for its Cebu-based programs.

Hurry! Make it in Cebu. Make it in eTelecare.

etelecare international

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Four Ways To Earn the e Mark:

- **Call** for an immediate phone interview —
  Manila: (02) 580-6530
  Cebu: (032) 411-9030/411-9021/411-9024
- **Visit us** for pre-employment screening —
  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
  Cebu Office: 6/F PIPC Engineering & Sciences Bldg., Asia Town IT Park, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City 6000
- **E-mail** your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- **Fax** your resume to —
  Manila Recruiting: (02) 687-4841
  Cebu Recruiting: (032) 415-8458

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Mechanical/Electrical Engineer – Board Passer

ULTRASONIC INSPECTOR
- Certified NDT Level II – Ultrasonic Inspector
- Familiar with KRAUTKRAMER UT Equipment USM-35

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY
- Female / 23-28 years old
- Business Adm. Graduate – with (1) exp. in secretarial work

MATERIALS CONTROL STAFF
- Male/Female / 23-28 years old
- Industrial Eng'g. Graduate

Qualified applicants may send resumé with 1x1 ID photo to:

HRD – INTERNATIONAL PIPE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION
119 Ortigas Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Tel. # 671-99-77 to 80 HRD Loc. 100

SALES DIRECTOR
FOR RADIO AND TV BROADCASTING NETWORK

- 25 to 40 years of age
- A minimum of 5 years experience in Advertising Agency or other Network Sales experience
- Salary P75,000-P100,000/mo. Plus override commission

Please send resumé to:
MCPO BOX 3350
MAKATI CITY 1273

A joint venture between
ASPIRE IT SOLUTIONS, INC. and **PROFILES ASIA PACIFIC** *INC.*

CALL CENTER DYNAMICS

Providing RECRUITMENT Capabilities.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (500)
- **Must be college graduate**
- **Excellent English communication skills**
- **Computer and Internet literate**
- **Previous call center or customer service experience an advantage**
- **Willing to work on shifting schedules**

SR. TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

PART TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
Makati Recruitment Center
Aspire IT Solutions, Inc.
24th floor, Executive Power Center
Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES (1000)
- **Graduate of any IT-related course or with equivalent work experience**
- **Must be Computer and Internet savvy**
- **Excellent English communication skills**
- **Previous technical support an advantage**
- **Willing to work on shifting schedules**

OUTBOUND AGENTS

CALL CENTER RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
Ortigas Recruitment Center
Profiles Asia Pacific, Inc.
502 OMM-CITRA Building, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

We are also looking for top candidates to fill-up the following positions:

- **SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER**
- **SPANISH SPEAKING AGENTS**
- **WORKFORCE SPECIALISTS / SUPERVISOR**
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS**
- **TEAM LEADERS**

EMAIL TO: **diodil@aspireit.com.ph**

YOUR ACCESS TO A CAREER IN THE TOP CALL CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY

A dynamic, fast growing Pharmaceutical Company invites applicants for the position of:

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 21 to 25 years old
- Male or female
- College graduate
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- With or without experience
- With pleasing personality

Applicants are requested to call the office for schedule of interview. Please call 631-1674 or 633-2841 from 9 am to 5 pm on December 6-7 and 13-14, 2004. Applicants scheduled for interview must bring comprehensive resumé, diploma, transcript of records and passport size photo.

CLINIC PHYSICIANS

A health benefits management company is in need of clinic physicians with the following qualifications:

- Must have completed residency training preferably in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Pleasing personality

Interested physicians may send or apply with the following credentials: detailed resumé with 2x2 picture, certificate of residency training

NURSES

- Female, Registered Nurse, not less than 5'2" in height, not more than 28 years of age
- Has at least one (1) year experience in clinical or hospital work
- Possess a pleasing personality, with good communication & interpersonal skills
- Must be computer literate

Please address all applications to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, INC.
Unit 306 3rd Level EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Tel Nos. 631-6501 local 7139 or 634-5714

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
FOR RETAIL OUTLET

- M/F 30-40 YEARS OLD
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH EXPERIENCE IN RETAIL MANAGEMENT
- FOR PROVINCIAL ASSIGNMENT (NUEVA ECIJA & ALBAY)

APPLY WITH RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS OR DIPLOMA, AND MOST RECENT 2x2 ID PICTURES TO 849 RETIRO ST. COR. ARANETA AVE., STA MESA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY

WE HAVE A NEED FOR:

VEHICLE INSURANCE MARKETING COORDINATOR

Male or Female, not more than 35 years old

Apply in person with Bio-data and ID photo to:

MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(NON-NISSAN SHOP)
2280 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City
Look for Mr. Tony Cosme
Tel. No. 843-8011 loc. 251

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

• Female below 27 years old • Graduate of at least a 2-year diploma or certificate course • Proficient in MS Office applications • Familiar with personal computers systems • Excellent in English • Pleasing personality

Email or fax your updated resumé with latest ID photo and contact details to:

AmbiEnergy Enterprises
email. LPGcarpower@yahoo.com
Fax 4127100

stride

Globalstride is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider. We provide the best in class CRM solutions to global companies at a lower cost through our offshore customer contact centers. Through a series of operational and technology partnerships with leading companies worldwide, GLOBALSTRIDE is uniquely positioned to handle customer service needs for a full range of contact channels, technologies, and languages.

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALISTS

Job Responsibilities:
- Offer product & services through the telephone & other specified means of communication to a target list of customers in behalf of the product/services being offered.
- Provide necessary information about the product & services.
- Document all pertinent customer data using client prescribed form
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls.

Job Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and communication skills particularly using American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection, intonation and articulation.
- Previous experience in customer relation, management, sales or marketing is an advantage.
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Chinese, French, etc.) is a plus.

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Responsible in planning, implementing and directing business proposals and initiatives of the company

Job Requirements:
- Must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in customer service or telesales.
- With at least 2 to 3 years of managerial or supervisory experience in project/account management and must have established analytical ability, good interpersonal skills and exceptional verbal and written communication
- MBA degree from AIM/ADMU/UP is an advantage.
- Preferably 25-35 years of age with acquired experience in telesales management

CREDIT AND COLLECTIONS OFFICER

Job Responsibilities:
- Maintain Accounts Receivable, general and subsidiary records
- Prepare aging and other analyses for management
- Establish and maintain credit evaluation system
- Ensure adherence to credit and collection policies
- Prepare and transmit Statement of Accounts to clients and coordinate with internal Client Services for follow-up

Job Requirements:
- Accounting or Business Graduate
- At least 5 years experience, last 2 in supervisory capacity, in credit and collection, internal or external audit
- Expected to be detail-oriented and pro-active with above average communication skills (written and oral)
- Experience in both manual and automated financial systems is a plus

SENIOR/SALES TRAINERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Design and conduct training programs on Sales and Customer Service and facilitate sales coaching sessions.
- Conduct regular on-floor Sales and Customer Service audit or call monitoring sessions with QA to capture lapses in sales techniques, pitch, as well as inculcate sales & customer service mindset/orientation.
- Train Trainers, Coaches, and Team Leaders on Sales and Customer Service.
- Revisit/audit programs and agents' skills levels and develop appropriate interventions.

Job Requirements:
- Must be degree holders preferably related to Sales and Marketing or Communications and Languages disciplines
- Must have established track record in Sales or Customer Service training gained from at least 3 years working experience in a call center or in a service oriented environment
- Exceptional communication skills, developed service orientation, strong people skills and proficiency in conducting training needs assessments and measurements are requisites
- Passion for Sales and Customer Service training and established course design and facilitation skills
- Experienced in developing skills-build up strategies for individuals or groups; good coaching skills
- Must be team-player, self-starter, organized and analytic

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Conduct process reviews and compliance audit based on specified key controls
- Analyze statistical data for service standards and process measurements for corrective actions
- Monitor calls to ensure conformity with customer requirements and coordinate with other departments to manage customer issues

Job Requirements:
- Candidates should be degree holders with excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must have keen eye for detail; analytical and with strong inclination in dealing with processes
- Candidates should have good sense of judgment, systematic and team oriented.
- Good probing skills and QA mindset have an advantage

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST / SUPERVISOR

Job Responsibilities:
- Organize and ensure efficiency of internal and external communication systems

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of preferably any Behavioral Science, Organizational Communications and Advertising courses
- At least 2-years significant work-related experience in handling organizational communications preferably in a manufacturing set-up with well-developed communication skills, both oral and written
- Demonstrated capability in ensuring workplace harmony through effective management of internal and external communications, including community relations and newsletter writing
- Well-founded interpersonal skills and recognized ability to work with all levels of the organization.
- Willing to be part of a young, vibrant and schedule-shifting environment

Please visit us at:
29th Floor IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City, Cyberpark Libis, Quezon City.
You can also call or email us at jobs@globalstride.com or visit our website at www.globalstride.com Telephone No. 911-8866 / Fax. 911-8854

Safeway Philtech Inc.

Safeway Philtech Inc. was established in 2003 as a subsidiary of Safeway Holdings Inc. Our company is one of the Development and Application Support Centres for Safeway Inc.- one of the largest food and drug retailers in North America. It operates more than 1,800 stores in Western, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain, and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and in Western Canada. In support of its stores, Safeway has an extensive network of distribution, manufacturing and food processing facilities.

Over the past year, Safeway Philtech Inc. has employed over 180 skilled employees. We are committed to building not only business solutions but also career options for our people. We offer career opportunities at every level, allowing each individual to explore new technologies and obtain experience in variety of applications.

The opportunity for growth depends on one's ambition to drive to succeed. Safeway Philtech Inc. is committed to your success by providing you with all the opportunities and training you need to feel challenged. We guide our employees in exploring their options and mapping out their own paths for success.

Continuos improvement, quality rapid growth, innovation are the words used to describe the company. These words also characterized the employees who work together in providing high quality results. We are continuously looking for people who will help us lead the way. We challenge you to join us in building tomorrow today.

To support our operations, we are looking for highly motivated and energetic IT professionals to assume the following positions.

Application Support Job Requirements

Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other related field or have attained a minimum of 3 years I.T. work experience in application support or maintenance. Must have sound technical analysis and problem solving skills. Uphold strong interpersonal qualities and has genuine desire to provide superior customer service to our I.T. customers. Have excellent written and oral communication skills.

Mainframe
- Mainframe must have skills: **COBOL, CICS, DB2, JCL**, VSAM, TSO, CA7, QMF

Web/Java/Unix
- Java, J2EE, Unix, Web

Security Administrator
- Administration and Security background.
- Knowledgeable in Mainframe, RACF, Unix, Windows, Databases, Directory Servers and Applications to implement access requests.

EDI
- Minimum 2 to 3 years of application support experience on mainframe MVS, midrange or equivalent systems.
- Experience with EDI translator applications or third party packages (e.g., GENTRAN).
- Mainframe programming skills in COBOL, MVS JCL/Utilities, CICS, and job scheduling (CA7 or the equivalent).
- Experience with Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or the UCS Grocery Industry Standard.
- Experience with installing, maintaining, or using complex vendor packages (especially Sterling Software's GENTRAN:Basic, GENTRAN:Plus, Connect:Enterprise, and Connect:Direct)
- Exposure to Procurement and/or Accounting/Financial applications.
- Exposure to web-based e-commerce systems.
- Experience with midrange platforms such as the AS400 and NT servers.

Helpdesk
- Minimum 6 months work experience in a Call Center and with excellent communication skills. Knowledge in basic PC troubleshooting is an advantage.

Application Development Job Requirements

Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other related field or have attained a minimum of 5 years I.T. work experience in application development. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills. Have the desire to learn new skills, technologies and adapt to new information demands. Should have the ability to multi-task on many projects and priorities and be able to handle situations that may come with delivery of critical applications. Applicants must be results oriented, willing to take responsibility and accept accountability for action. He or she must be a creative thinker in terms of diagnosing and troubleshooting problems, identifying and developing methods to automate/improve new/existing procedures.

Java Developer
- Minimum 3 years application development experience on Java, JSP, Servlet, DB2 and Windows NT
- Experience in Time and Attendance application is an advantage

DataBase Administrators
- The Midrange Data Management Support team is required to provide database support on a 24X7 basis for all database platforms **(Informix, MS SQL-Server, and DB2 UDB)**.
- Work with Operations Support, Applications Support Team, and End Users to solve database related problems in the Informix/SQL Server/DB2 UDB/Unix environments.
- Perform database analysis, reorganizations, backup, and recoveries for all Informix/SQL Server/DB2 UDB instances.
- Implement database/object changes to support business application implementations and upgrades.
- Install Informix/SQL Server/DB2 UDB Service packs, Fix packs, and individual patches to maintain infrastructure software at optimum maintenance levels.

Retail Quality Assurance

RQA Tester
- Must have at least 6 months work experience in software QA testing.
- Knowledge in IBM POS System, Unix Application is a plus.
- Retail Industry background is an advantage
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office. Able to develop, execute and track QA test strategies to create a final product.

E-Mail Administrators
- Understanding of internet mail systems – SMTP, POP3 protocols, DNS knowledge extremely useful.
- Exceptional customer service skills
- Knowledge of Netscape mail, our standard, but other mail systems experience is also valuable.
- Security awareness and experience with dealing with or recognizing viruses or mail
- Previous experience with Tumbleweed MMS use to maintain filters or similar tools
- Microsoft mail server skills very desirable as we move to that software environment.

We offer an above industry compensation and benefits package with lots of development opportunities. Please e-mail your resume to **shery.tirado@safeway.com** or **jinky.suobiron@safeway.com** or you may send it together with your 2 X 2 photo to **Recruitment, Safeway Philtech Inc., 21st Floor, Tower I, RCBC Plaza, Corner Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City.** You may also fax to (632) 757-67-39 and call (632) 757-6884/757-6868 and look for Sherry Tirado or Bing Lustre.

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At West, we don't stop at being the best!

Customer Service Representatives

West Contact Services, a subsidiary of U.S.-based West Corporation, is looking for dynamic, self-motivated and results-driven individuals to fill our **200 new positions.**

Excellent opportunity for part-time employment!

Qualifications:
- Excellent English communication skills, including good comprehension and ability to express yourself clearly in English
- Good customer service orientation
- Basic computer skills

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Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

CWS

"Great People
Great Company"

Key Account Manager

CWS Philippines aims to rapidly consolidate our position as the number one commercial hygiene service provider in the industry. Our industry is competitive and aggressive. Success comes to those who are great time managers and have excellent account management skills.

Role Purpose
To grow and secure a designated portfolio of customers through additional sales of CWS services following the principles outlined in the CWS "Selling A Service" Manual. To prospect for additional customer sales through a structured prospecting plan and CWS cold calling techniques.

Quantitative Key Measurement
- Responds to internal & external customer requests within 24 hours
- Budget achievement - monthly
- Ensure planning tools are in place and used for effective sales & prospecting production rates
- Ensure all activities are aligned to all CWS sales & service manuals

Qualitative Key Measurement
- Ensures that there is a minimum of four existing customer surveys per day
- Ensures that there is a minimum of four cold calls per day
- Sells to the price list. Discounts require approval
- Ensure all CWS corporate identity requirements are met

Core competencies
- Demonstrated high level of sales activity in a service industry
- Demonstrated high level of prospecting activity
- History of selling solutions to problems
- Sales educated by recognized institution
- Leads the sales from the front & "hands on"
- Manage personal sales productivity & performance criteria

Personal Qualities
- Builds respect, trust and pride within customer base
- Sense of humor
- Open, honest & empathetic
- Detailed approach
- Outgoing personality, friendly approach and optimistic

Our organisation provides an environment that rewards achievement, innovation and team spirit. Interested individuals are invited to send their resume complete with relevant particulars, current and expected salary, together with a recent passport-sized photograph (n.r.) via mail or email to:

MISS SUSAN STA. MARIA
Human Resource Manager
PRIMEPOINT Management Services, Inc.
Unit 503 Regina Bldg.,100 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Email- whatcanwedoforyou@primepoint.com.ph
Tel No. 830-0679; 830-0646
Fax No. 830-0785
Closing Date: December 15, 2004

A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

Management Trainee
- Male, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Quality Control / Research and Development Technician
- Male or Female, single, age 22 to 26 years old
- Computer literate, graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or Industrial Engineering
- At least 1 year experience in Quality Control / Quality Assurance and/or Research and Development work.
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Mechanical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 3 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Computer literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in machine troubleshooting, preventive maintenance and fabrication.

Electrical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 3 years work experience.
- Can supervise or lead a team.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Architectural Designer
- Graduate of B.S. Architecture
- At least 3 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Agriculturist/Agronomist
- Male/Female, at least 28 years old.
- Degree holder of B.S. Agronomy, or B.S. Agriculture major in Agronomy.
- Experienced in Root Crop Farm Supervision/Management, knowledgeable in tuber growing, pest control, post-harvest handling and storage.
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Interior Designer
- B.S. Interior Design graduate
- At least 1 year work experience in interior designing
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD 2000 or higher version
- Able to render perspective drawing
- Able to prepare bill of materials/project estimates
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned in China

Graphic Artist
- Degree in Fine Arts or Advertising
- Must be proficient in computer 2D graphics applications such as Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator/Freehand/CorelDraw and AutoCAD
- Preferably with experience in a creative job position

Telephone Operator / Receptionist
- Female, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills.

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:
HRD Manager, 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300
***or E-mail to hrdmanager2004@yahoo.com** (with attached ID photo)*
Please indicate the position you are applying for.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo Sts.,
Manila 1004

A Foreign-Assisted Project of the Department of Finance is in need of Consultants to be involved in the Transformation of the Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO) into a Government Financial Institutions (GFIs). The Consultants to be engaged must have gained broad experience in organizational restructuring and thoroughly familiar with government rules and regulations particularly on organizational and institutional aspects of financial operations. The Consultants must also have undertaken similar engagements in the past or must possess substantial background in the areas of corporate planning and business development organizational development, credit and financial management, and corporate legal management, and other related fields in their previous professional affiliations.

CODE: BUS-2 CORPORATE PLANNING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The consultant to be hired must have at least 10 years relevant experiences in corporate planning and business/product development of a medium to large finance company dealing with institutional clients such as commercial firms, government entities and local authorities. The consultant should likewise have extensive knowledge and experience in developing a business plan and marketing strategy for a lending institution, and other related areas, including formulating systems and processes in his/her field of specialization. He/She must have acquired a minimum college degree as educational background hence, having a graduate degree or substantial compliance for a graduate degree shall be preferred.

CODE: ORG-2 ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

The consultant to be hired must have at least 10 years relevant experience in organizational management and development, human resource administration and institutional arrangements with government authorities. The consultant should likewise have extensive knowledge and experience in developing organizational systems and processes in his/her field of specialization as well as formulating functional and job descriptions. He/She must have acquired a minimum bachelor's degree while a graduate degree or substantial equivalent in the relevant field will be given preference.

CODE: FIN-2 CREDIT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The consultant to be hired must have at least 10 years relevant experience in credit and financial management of a medium to large lending entity especially to institutional clients such as commercial and government entities and local authorities. The consultant should likewise have extensive knowledge and experience in developing credit policies, systems and procedures and formulating financial statements and projections, among other related areas. He/She must have acquired a minimum bachelor's degree while a graduate degree or substantial equivalent in the relevant field will be given preference.

CODE: LEG-2 LEGAL MANAGEMENT

The consultant to be hired must have at least 8 years relevant experience in a medium or large finance company particularly in a government financial institution and have good knowledge of the Corporate Code. The consultant must also possess substantial background in formulating legal positions and opinions on government and corporate rules and regulations as well as legal documentation of credit instruments. The consultant should likewise have broad knowledge and experience in legal management functions in a financial institution. He/She must be a licensed lawyer while a graduate degree in a relevant field will be given preference.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, comprehensive resumé and 2x2 picture on or before December 24, 2004 to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Municipal Development Fund Office, Department of Finance
Podium Level, Executive Tower Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

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Customer service representatives*

All you need to have is:
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know more about us at > www.teletech.com

*interviews will be held at our Pasay City Office at Building F, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park, Pasay City.

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Trainee Coating Plant Manager

Your responsibilities:
- Manage production, quality and delivery deadlines
- Manage personnel of plant
- Generate reports for Management
- Develop customers by conducting presentations
- Review technical specification and commercial documents
- Bid preparation for local and foreign projects including lump sum turnkey contracts

Requirements:
- Degree in Chemical Engineering or equivalent
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Knowlegde of Bahasa Indonesia is an added advantage

As this is at entry-level position, fresh graduates will be considered.

Maintenance Foreman

Your responsibilities:
- Perform repair and/or maintenance on blasting machines, oil fired gas ovens, compressor and coating dollies of coating plan including but not limited to Electrical, Mechanical, Hydraulics and Penumatics

Requirements:
- Degree/Diploma in Electrical Engineering or equivalent
- Ability to perform preventive maintenance
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

We offer a competitive compensation package based on your qualifications and experience.

Please submit a written application by **26 December 2004** to
mrubiyah@varco.com

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IPSEN, one of the top 5 healthcare companies in France and a leading research & development group in the fields of oncology, endocrinology and neuromuscular disorders, is in need of only the best applicants to pursue a challenging and rewarding career within its newly established Philippine Operations. We have urgent requirements for the following positions:

P.A. to the Country Manager

Biotech Specialty Representatives
- Male/female, no more than 36 years of age
- Highly attractive with pleasant yet assertive personality and strong entrepreneurial spirit
- Passionate, dedicated, trustworthy team players and leaders who are determined to advance quickly in their respective careers
- Graduate of a 4-year college course or equivalent, preferably in marketing, management or a healthcare science course
- High critical and analytical skills with a strong grasp of details
- Exceptional planning and organizing skills
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and verbal with knowledge of Chinese, Cebuano or French, an advantage
- Above average to advanced computer skills (MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook)
- No plans of migrating within the next 5 years
- Experience in the pharmaceutical industry, especially with small to medium-size companies may be an advantage, but not necessary

Successful applicants can look forward to a challenging work experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including an attractive compensation, incentive and benefit package that includes regular travel abroad and around the country, with the opportunity to be part of the team that is pioneering the IPSEN business in the Philippines. Interested parties should come in business attire with their comprehensive resumés and 2x2 colored photographs between 8 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, 14 December or Thursday, 16 December, 2004.

IPSEN Philippine Operations
Suite 24.04, One San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Telephone: (+632) 687 6575
Email: odarvin@compass.com.ph

Visit our website at: www.ipsen.com

Bonheur Marketing Corporation, a distribution company belonging to the Top 200 Corporations invites highly competent professionals for its expansion. We offer competitive compensation package and benefits including sales incentives.

FIELD SALES SUPERVISOR

Responsible for planning, organizing, controlling, and leading the sales force operation toward attainment of sales objectives. Two years experience as supervisor, proficient in formulation and presentation of business plans.

KEY ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

Responsible for sales volume and business building activities for leading supermarkets, groceries and wholesalers. Male or female, at least 2 years experience in key accounts management preferably in high volume, fast moving consumer products.

VAN SALESMEN

Responsible for distribution, collection and merchandising for selected downline retailers. Preferably a college graduate with experience in sales distribution in consumer products.

CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF

Female, single, not more than 25 years old, BS Accountancy graduate, at least with one year experience and willing to visit different depots.

ENCODER

Female, single not more than 25 years old, BS computer graduate

We offer opportunities for career development and highly competitive remuneration.

Please send your resumé with recent ID picture to:

Vice President – Sales
P.O. Box 2743, Makati City

InStyle Apparel, Inc.
Authorized distributor of Gap, and Banana Republic and Old Navy

TESORO'S
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The two separate companies are jointly looking for the following

BRANCH TEAM LEADER- For InStyle

Requirements
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- At least one year managerial experience in retail companies
- Results oriented
- Willing to work hard and do overtime

Responsibilities
- Responsible for overall store operations-conceptualization and effective implementation of business strategies to achieve sales target with full profit and loss accountability for the store
- Shall effectively implement customer service, visual display and inventory control standards

STORE SALES ASSOCIATE - For InStyle and Tesoro's

Requirements
- Not older than 35 years old
- At least 5' in height
- Must be competent, trustworthy, responsible and a team player
- Highly personable, dynamic and with a mature disposition

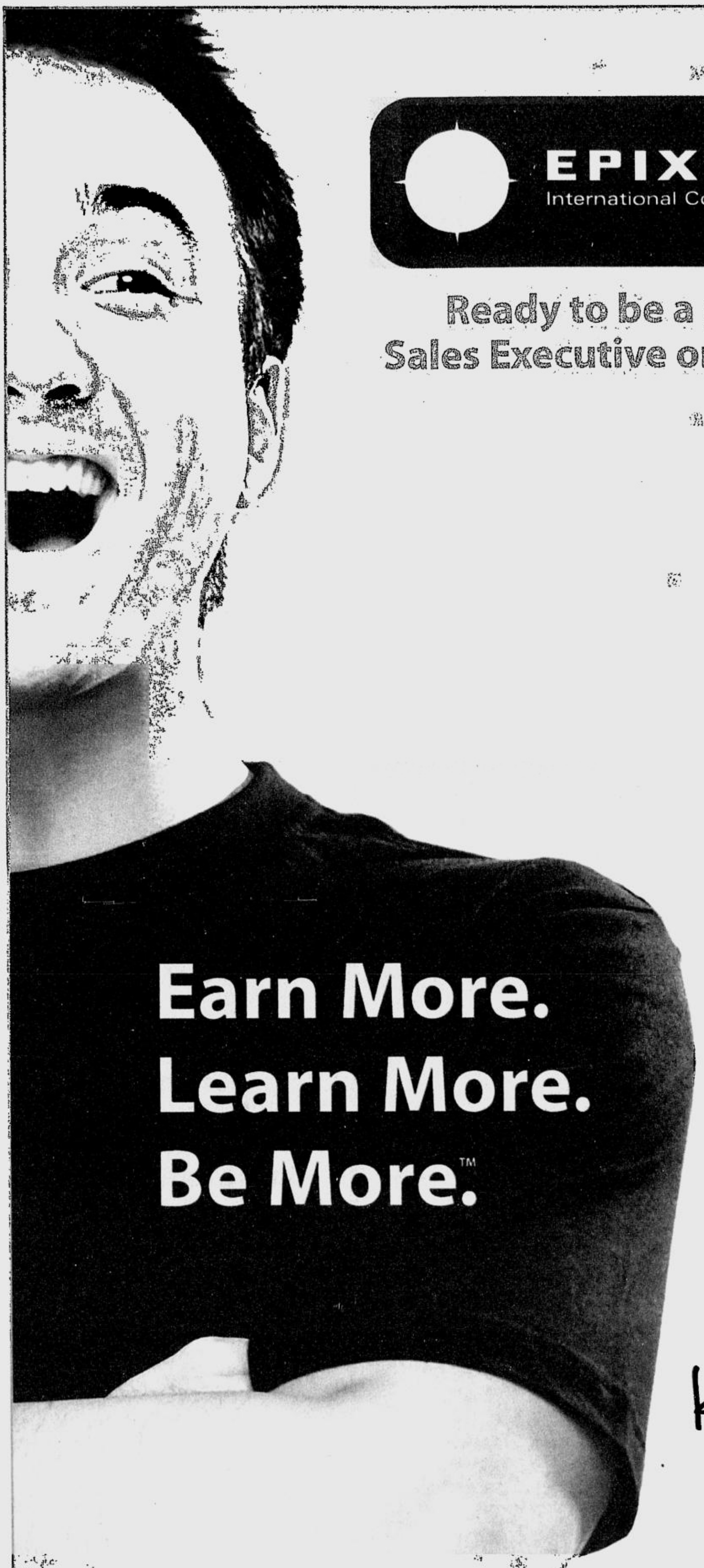
INVENTORY CLERK - For Tesoro's

Requirements
- Results oriented
- Willing to work hard and do overtime
- At least one year of working experience in a related field
- Ability to multi task

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANT - For Instyle and Tesoro's

Requirements
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management, Sales & Marketing or equivalent
- At least one year of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Must be analytical, results oriented, creative and with good fashion sense
- Ability to multi task

Send your resume to
Instyle Apparel, Inc.
2F Tesoro Bldg., 1016 Arnaiz Ave. Makati 1229
Tel No. 843.2771



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KC Montero

Apply: Mon-Fri between 10am-6pm at: 5 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City CyberPark, Bagumbayan Quezon City

Requirements: • Willing to work in Eastwood/Alabang • Resident of the Philippines • Written & Spoken English Skill • Computer Literacy • Knowledge of U.S. Culture & Geography Preferred • Call Center Experience Preferred

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INQUIRER

JOB Market

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People At Work on Pages 6, 7 & 8

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE IN AN INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTER ?

InfoNXX Philippines, Inc., the leading provider of enhanced Directory Assistance in the United States and United Kingdom, invites you to join the

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on December 17 and 18, 2004
at El Cielito Inn, National Highway Bo. Pulong, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
from 9:00AM to 6:00PM. Please bring an updated resume with photo.

Interested participants from Laguna and nearby provinces will undergo interviews and exams to assess their skills for the Customer Service Representative position.

Recently awarded the *NATIONAL SHOPPER'S CHOICE AWARD* and the *PHILIPPINE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD as the BEST CALL CENTER*

To apply in our Makati Office : Visit us at the 11/F RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, from 9AM to 6PM. Please bring comprehensive resume with photo.

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JOB Market

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following site based positions;

SENIOR SURVEYOR

- Reporting initially to the Chief Surveyor, responsible for safely leading the Mine Survey team, consisting of two mine surveyors, several survey assistants and clerks. This position will work closely with the mining contractor requiring communication skills to be excellent.
- Possess experience and skills required to implement survey control for conventional open pit mining techniques. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Producing accurate plans as requested in a timely manner.
- Responsible for developing systems and procedures for all activities undertaken by the Survey Department., including supervision and training Survey personnel. A high regard for safety is essential.
- Be degree qualified, and have sound experience with mining software.

MINE SURVEYORS

- Reporting to the Senior Surveyor, responsible for undertaking the day to day survey tasks as required to operate the open pit mine.
- Experience in open pit mining although not necessary will be highly regarded. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Candidates must be physically fit and willing to work in a challenging environment.
- Must be team player and willing to learn as well as pass on knowledge to less experienced members of the team.
- Be degree qualified, and have had some exposure to mining software packages.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing by 22 December, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following senior site based positions;

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for site HR activities including recruitment and payroll administration.
- A degree in Human Resources or Business or similar qualification and good computer skills are preferred, together with several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing industry, and good knowledge of labour laws.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Responsible for site Accounting activities in accordance with appropriate and approved accounting policies and procedures, and
- Ensuring the integrity of financial computer systems and records, and providing financial reporting and advice to a wide range of parties including site managers, corporate offices (Manila and Australia), and external organisations.
- A degree in Accounting or similar, together with superior computing skills are essential, whilst several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing is preferred.

SUPPLY SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for Supply activities with the objective that quality goods and services are procured in a timely, safe and cost effective manner, including overseas goods, and
- Implementing effective inventory management, and continuously reviewing delivery and logistics arrangements to maximize procurement efficiency and to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
- Procurement, Business or a Mechanical background are necessary, with supervisory experience. High level computing skills and good knowledge of computerized purchasing and inventory systems are essential.

SAFETY SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for establishing and maintaining safety policies and procedures, establishing standards and controls to identify and eliminate safety & health hazards, and assisting in the development of appropriate training related to safe working procedures and accident and incident investigations.
- Experience as a Safety practitioner at a senior level in an industrial workplace is necessary along with high level communication and computer skills.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing by 22 December, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

OPEN HOUSE

Recruitment

December 13 - 29, 2004 * 9am – 3pm
HAND IN YOUR RESUME PERSONALLY AND BE INTERVIEWED RIGHT AWAY!

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

Customer Service Representatives

INBOUND and OUTBOUND

Must be willing to work in a CALL CENTER environment * Excellent ENGLISH communication skills * Willing to work on shifting schedules * Minimum educational attainment: 2nd Year College * 300 Full-Time positions available

IT SALES REP.

College Graduate * Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Sales-Engineering/Technical/ IT or equivalent * 25 Full-Time positions available

CALL CENTER MANAGER
WORKFORCE ANALYST
MARKETING MANAGER

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Finance Staff

603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE.
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY
TEL: (632) 631-3109/47
MAIL: bpni2004@pldonline.com.ph

Our company has an immediate need of dynamic, highly individuals to fill the following positions:

Accountant

- Female
- not more than 35 years old
- must be a Certified Public Accountant
- with at least 3 years relevant experience

Bookkeeper

- Female
- Accounting graduate
- Must have two years experience in general accounting and bookkeeping
- Computer literate

Office Coordinator

- Female
- Must be an Engineer, BS Chem or any related profession
- We welcome fresh graduates

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person and send their resumé with 2x2 photo at:

195 Andros St., Phase 4, Visa Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal 1900 or Email: technichem@pacific.net.ph

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  - Butchery
  - Coffee Shop Operations
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  - Hygiene & Sanitation
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(Makati)
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(Sta. Rosa, Laguna and Manila)
- Registered Nurse w/ at least 2 years experience.

Submit resumé to:
Human Resources Department
Fortmed Medical Clinics
3F Equitable Bank Bldg., Paseo de Roxas cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
or send it thru e-mail at
hrd@fortmed.com.ph

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* **2004 Most Outstanding Savings Bank by Consumers Union of the Philippines**
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- Must have at least one (1) year experience in jewelry appraising
- Must possess high degree of integrity
- At least college graduate

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- Responsible in the over-all management of the branch (BM)
- Those with existing deposit or loan portfolios are preferred (BM)
- Must have working experience in branch operations

MARKETING ASSISTANTS AND TELLERS

- Responsible in deposit and loan generation as well as account management (for MARKETING ASSISTANTS)
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- Single, college graduate, at least 21 to 25 years old
- Excellent communication skills

Please send your credentials to :

CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK, INC.
Human Resources Development Department
Citystate Centre Building
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Tel. No. 636-3333 / 637-9843

www.citystatesavings.com

GEUMWHA PSC COMPANY LTD. KOREA

URGENTLY NEEDS 20 TIG WELDERS

(Under the Employment Permit System)

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
- Male, 18-39 years old
- Two (2) years experience in Tig Welding, preferably with plant experience
- Able to pass technical skills test and oral interview to be conducted by the employer
- Willing and able to enter Korea by January 18, 2005
- Have no record of violation of Korea's Immigration Act (for ex-Korea applicants)

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT
Base salary approximately 882,000 Korean Won based on 294 working hours Accommodation, meals and transportation for commuting to work provided (apart from monthly salary)
Extra pay for overtime
Additional pay rate: 50%

Interested applicants should register at WINDOW M Manpower Registry Division, Ground Floor, BLAS F. OPLE Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.) Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City and submit in a creme folder detailed resumé with job description specifying the name of projects, duties, responsibilities, both domestic and overseas; one (1) 2x2 picture colored, white background, certificate of employment

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION : 10 DECEMBER 2004
DATE OF INTERVIEW : 16 DECEMBER 2004
Bring passport or driver's license

"Mag-ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

(Sgd.) NIMFA D. DE GUZMAN
Director II
Government Placement Branch

A Domestic RORO Passenger vessel serving the STRONG REPUBLIC NAUTICAL HIGHWAY:

WELCOMES APPLICANTS FOR:

- **Deck Officers,** with training in Crowd & Crisis Management & Safe Navigation & Collision Regulations.
- **Engine Officers, Ratings and Cadets,** with training in Crowd & Crisis Management. Engine Officers must be familiar for Niigata, Daihatsu, Wichman & Normo Diesel made engine.

Applicants for the above positions must be familiar with RORO/Passenger vessel and preferably with experience in domestic route; training in ISM Code is an advantage.

- **Operations Manager,** 30 50 years old; with experience in domestic shipping, dry-docking and logistics; knowledgeable in PPA, PCG & MARINA Rules and Regulations.
- **Technical Engr./Asst.,** with experience in vessel, ship maintenance repair and dry-docking; is familiar with Japanese-made engines and willing to be on provincial assignments.

Qualified applicants may send or submit their resume to:

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Acacia Ave.,Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No.775-0441

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FUJI XEROX

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

THE JOB: Ensure achievement of targeted Sales, Revenue and profit from diverse array of products / services offering by effective prospecting and account management within a targeted group of accounts within one or more industry segments, where Fuji Xerox products / service offerings are positioned uniquely for competitive advantage; Lead the creation of proposal recommendation, negotiation and implementation of proposed solutions; Ensure promotion / achievement of brand loyalty and generate sound prospects for repeat business.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, preferably a Bachelor of Science degree holder of Management, Marketing, Computer Science or any related course. Self–motivated, experience in IT application a plus, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Results – oriented, customer – focused, at least three (3) years working experience in sales and marketing , and with above average IQ.

BUSINESS ANALYST

THE JOB: Work with customers, in all levels of the organization to understand the customer's business strategy and its impact on work processes and document flows within the customer organization; Identify / develop potential solutions encompassing people, processes and ultimately enhance productivity for Fuji Xerox customers.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, College Graduate, with three (3) years experience in the Information Technology (IT) industry as analyst. Self–motivated, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills; as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Results–oriented, customer–focused, and with above average IQ. Has basic financial skills.

PRODUCT MANAGERS

THE JOB: To provide leadership in managing a product or group of products to ensure maximum market penetration and profitability

QUALIFICATIONS: College Graduate with Bachelor of Science degree in Management / Marketing, an MBA degree is an advantage. Has a combined minimum four (4) years experience in Marketing and Sales with minimum two (2) years experience in product or brand management / marketing. Knowledge of Industry – based marketing including distribution methods and technologies is preferred. Prior project management and market analysis experience is a plus. Has analytical and decision making capabilities and is highly innovative, focused and driven. Possesses above average intelligence with good interpersonal and communication skills.

FUJI XEROX PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resource Division
19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8785200 loc. 137. Please look for: Ms. Juvy J. Vidal
or E-mail: juvy.vidal@phl.xerox.com

CWS

"Great People
Great Company"

Dynamic Sales Consultant

CWS Philippines aims to rapidly consolidate our position as the number one commercial hygiene service provider in the industry. Our industry is competitive and aggressive. Success comes to those who are great time managers and have excellent selling skills.

Role Purpose
To grow and secure a designated portfolio of customers through additional sales of CWS services following the principles outlined in the CWS "Selling A Service "Manual. To prospect for additional customer sales using a structured prospecting plan and CWS cold calling techniques.

Quantitative Key Measurement
- Responds to internal & external customer requests within 24 hours
- Budget achievement - monthly
- Ensures planning tools are in place and utilized for effective sales & prospecting production rates
- Ensures all activities are aligned to all CWS sales & service manuals

Qualitative Key Measurement
- Ensures that there is a minimum of four existing customer surveys per day
- Ensures that there is a minimum of four cold calls per day
- Sells to the price list. Discounts require approval
- Ensures all CWS corporate identity requirements are met

Core competencies
- Demonstrated high level of sales activity in a service industry
- Demonstrated high level of prospecting activity
- History of selling solutions to problems
- Sales educated by recognized institution
- Leads the sales from the front & "hands on".
- Manages personal sales productivity & performance criteria

Personal Qualities
- Builds respect, trust and pride within customer base
- Sense of humor
- Open, honest & empathetic.
- Detailed approach
- Outgoing personality, friendly approach and optimistic

Our organisation provides an environment that rewards achievement, innovation and team spirit. Interested individuals are invited to send their resume complete with relevant particulars, current and expected salary, together with a recent passport-sized photograph (n.r.) via mail or email to:

MISS SUSAN STA. MARIA
Human Resource Manager
PRIMEPOINT Management Services, Inc.
Unit 503 Regina Bldg.,100 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Email- whatcanwedoforyou@primepoint.com.ph
Tel No. 830-0679; 830-0646 • Fax No. 830-0785
Closing Date: December 15, 2004

WANTED

* **Instructors for Cert. in Food & Beverage Service**
* **Instructors for Cert. in Housekeeping**

STI COLLEGE CALOOCAN
365-65-49 / 361-51-85 Look for **Ms. Donna Ancheta**

STI COLLEGE CUBAO
911-18-24 / 912-03-72 Look for **Ms. Ana Fronda**

STI COLLEGE NOVALICHES
936-03-68 / 936-03-61 Look for **Ms. Chit Arciaga**

We can give you the best gifts this Christmas!

MANAGEMENT

- Senior Operations Managers
- Operations Managers
- Account Supervisors
- Technical Services Manager
- Team Leads
- Software Quality Assurance Manager
- English Monitoring Manager

OPERATIONS

- Customer Service Representatives
- Customer Service Representatives
  - *Banking & Finance* - *Insurance*
  - *Credit & Collection*
- Technical Support Engineers
- Technical Support Engineers
  - *Routers & Networking*
- Technical Support Representatives (*Cantonese*)
- Reports Analysts
- Data Analysts
- Customer Service Representatives
  - *Spanish* - *Italian*
  - *French* - *French-Dutch*
  - *German*

SUPPORT GROUP

- English Monitoring Specialists
- Associate Engineers
- Human Resource Supervisor
- Human Resource Officers
- Human Resource / Assistants
- Training Officers

ORTIGAS

HR RECRUITMENT OFFICE
19/F One San Miguel Avenue Building
San Miguel Avenue corner Shaw Boulevard
Pasig City 1600

4/F San Miguel Properties Center
Saint Francis Street, Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City 1550

MAKATI

26/F Robinsons Summit Center
6783 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226

34/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

CEBU

KRC Commercial Building 1
National Highway, Subangdaku
Mandaue City, Cebu 6014

For inquiries, please call:
Manila (02) 817-8781
Cebu (032) 348-9898

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Real People. Real Solutions.

Perfect Career Opportunity for Sales Personalities !!!

AEBDI PHILIPPINES INC. (Formerly Alcatel eBusiness Distribution, Inc.), is a multinational company known of its over **30 Years Excellent Service Commitment** in providing **Voice and Data Solutions** to its hundreds of clients both local and abroad. In preparation to its expansion phase, **WE ARE ADDING FORCE TO OUR SALES TEAM !**

We are in need of Three (3)

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

who are willing to start immediately. He/She must possess the following qualifications:

- O Graduate of Information Technology courses or ECE
- O Should have at least 2 years experience in Sales with Outstanding Track Record, preferrably in a company of same industry
- O Excellent Presentation Skill in English
- O Has extensive networks
- O Can effectively deal with the executives of top corporations and agencies
- O Organized, self-driven, result-oriented and can perform well under pressures

For the qualified applicants, we offer Fix Monthly Basic, Transportation Allowance, Communication Allowance, above Industry Commission Scheme, and other competitive benefits. Trainings and travel opportunities here and abroad.

Please handcarry your comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 photo, copy of Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance and copy of Employment Certificates, to:

EBDI Philippines Inc., 2nd floor Pilgrim Bldg., 111 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
For further inquiries, call 857-78-75, look for Jun Taccad

We sell various financial services in partnership **with one of the country's top 5 universal banks** and with the **biggest Filipino life insurance company.**

We have an urgent need for enterprising men and women to join our sales team as :

FINANCIAL PLANNERS / SALES COORDINATORS

Qualifications :

- Age 21-30, Male or Female
- College Graduate from a reputable school
- Remarkable sales experience for at least one year
- Good Communication skills, Smart and Trainable
- Strong passion to succeed

We offer a guaranteed monthly compensation plus attractive incentives and a comprehensive training program.

Please apply personally and bring your resume with recent 2x2 picture at the address below from :

9:00am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday, December 13-17, 2004.

First Union Insurance & Financial Agencies, Inc.
1501 West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Management Services
New Zealand Immigration Consultancy

2nd Floor Marikina East Centre Bldg. Mayor Gil Fernando Avenue
San Roque, Marikina City

944-0014/944-0031
0917-5343047
isaservices@pacific.net.ph

Secure your future now!
New Zealand Residency

Nurses for New Zealand Training and Residency

Join the January batch and 2005 batches of nurses who will undergo the Competency Assessment Programme. If you have all the requirements or preparing to complete with the New Zealand Nursing Council, please see us now!

CGFNS passer (with certificate not later than year 2002)
IELTS (academic) Band 6.5 for application before 01 Feb 2004
IELTS (academic) Band 7 without grades below 6.5 for reading and writing after 02 February applications

We also offer assistance for your training cost!

WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY

Other professionals are also invited:

Engineers
Teachers
Tradespeople
Dieticians
and those included in the Occupational Shortage List and Priority Occupational List!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LOW PASSMARK!

SALES COUNSELORS

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

Our business is growing fast. We are seeking additional dynamic and goal driven sales counselors that posses the following qualities:

- Person to person sales or related front line customer contact with at least 5 years experience.
- Seeks high compensation levels based on performance.
- Works irregular hours including Saturdays with minimum supervision.
- College Graduate, Outstanding Oral and Written English Skills, Pleasing Personality, Computer Literate.

ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE

Qualified applicants are requested to email or fax their comprehensive resume and a 2 x 2 photo not later than December 9, 2004 to:

THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
John Robert Powers
International Since 1923
FAX: 8927657
EMAIL: manila@johnrobertpowers.com

ARROW FREIGHT CORPORATION (AFC)

is in need of

SUB-HAULERS

➢ **10 WHEELER – WING VAN**

- ✓ Provincial trips (Luzon-wide)
- ✓ Driver must be provided with cell phone
- ✓ With at least two (2) helpers per unit

For queries, contact
Ms. Michelle Samson
or ***Mr. Manny Franco***
at
(02) 931-8346 or 951-0679

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

Roche

Pharmaceuticals

Marketing Director

(Application Code: MD)

Who we are

Roche is an innovation-driven global healthcare-leader dedicated to the discovery, research, production and marketing of high quality healthcare products. Consistently categorized among the top corporations in the country, Roche has been successfully operating in the Philippines for more than 40 years.

The Position

This senior position is reporting to the General Manager and is a member of the Management Committee. He/she will be responsible for developing and strategizing innovative business plans, sustaining market leadership while ensuring profitability and providing excellent leadership for his/her team.

Who You are

To qualify, you must hold a degree in Business, Marketing or any related field. Post-graduate degree is a definite advantage. With a proven track record in sales and marketing, you must have a minimum of 10 years experience, 5 years of which must be as Senior Sales and Marketing Manager (VP level) in one of the top 10 companies in the consumer industry. The ideal candidate must possess excellent strategic planning and organizational skills, creative, innovative and has outstanding inter-personal ability.

How to Apply

Due to the urgency of this requirement, please submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Monday ,20 December 2004*** to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code___
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.

Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably male, at least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system

AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
- Preferably from reputable auditing firms
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws
- Analytical skills, Team player, can promote & implement appropriate process improvements
- Knowledge of auditing systems in newspaper industry

Responsibilities:
- Perform audit procedures, organize working papers, prepare and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/programs.

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

MARKETING INFORMATION OFFICER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of 4 year Business course, Management Information Systems or any relevant course
- 2 years marketing experience
- Knowledge in market research, product price, distribution and promotions strategies and its implementation.
- Creative Writing Skills, Ability to analyze the market and ability to organize, leadership skills, Interaction Management Skills & computer skills
- Familiar with database management systems
- Has experience in developing wireless promotions.

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the administration of the encoding and compiling of database derived from various mediums for brand use. Also responsible for managing and developing the wireless and text promotion for brands in order to assist in achieving sales targets

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

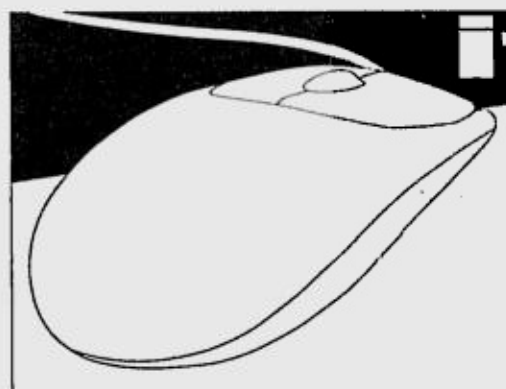
Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

Send your application letter
and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



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IT JOBS. IT BUSINESS. IT EDUCATION
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LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Committed to the people we serve

A prestigious manpower solutions and contract service provider, is in need of the following personnel:

PROFESSIONAL MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- MALE ; Registered Mechanical Engineer with Professional License;
- At least 10-15 years experience as Resident/Design Engineer for commercial/institutional projects;
- Preferably with knowledge in the implementation of Fire Protection & HVAC Systems.

SANITARY ENGINEER

- MALE; Licensed Sanitary Engineer;
- At least 10 years experience as Resident/Design Engineer for commercial/institutional projects.

HR CLERK

- FEMALE; B.S. Psychology graduate;
- Not more than 28 years old;
- With at least 1 year relevant experience in Recruitment and Training.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS/ BOOKKEEPERS

- Male/Female; Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- Not more than 30 years old; Civil Service Eligible;
- With or without relevant experience.
- Applicants must be from the following regions/provinces: NCR / (Region I): Batanes, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Region, Quirino / (Region II): Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya / (Region III): Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac / (CAR): Baguio, Benguet, Abra, Mt. Province, Kalinga, and Apayao.

GENERAL CLERKS

- Male/Female; Not more than 28 years old;
- Graduate of any Business Course; With or without relevant experience.

Interested applicants may visit our office at the 9th floor, Century Tower, 100 Tordesillas cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or may call **Valerie** or **Maricel** at **(02) 753-1625**. E-mail: lbpsc@globelines.com.ph

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WANTED
Physical Therapist
U.S. License Preferred. Interested applicants – email resumé to in@ite.net or cesarv@netpci.com. For inquiries, send text messages to 1-671-788-4488.

CARPP Beverages Distributors
A Rizal-based Pepsi-Cola Partner
Booking Salesmen & Delivery Drivers (Male)
- 25-38 years old
- College Graduate
- Professional Driver's License

Please fax your resumé/bio-data to 660-9240 (office hours only)

A US-based company is in need of hard-working individuals who would fill position for

Sales Account Executives

Applicants should have the following criteria:

1. Must have at least 3 years field experience in selling automotive parts
2. Must have a valid driver 's license and know how to drive in Metro Manila
3. Must be honest and of good moral character
4. Must be a team-player but can work alone without supervision
5. Must be willing to work extended hours
6. Must be willing to travel to the provinces

Successful applicants will receive an attractive compensation package plus the possibility of being promoted to the corporate office in the USA.

Interested Party must *personally* submit his/her resume' at Bisnes Mami Phils., Inc.
10 Perfecto Drive, Santa Maria Industrial Estate, Bagumbayan. Taguig City, MM
Applications are accepted not later than December 14, 2004 **Tel: 838-4857**

sportshouse

is in need of SPORTS ACTIVE and DYNAMIC individuals for the following positions:

Asst Category Manager:

Job Profile:
- Analyze the category and market to ensure constant improvement / evaluation of product category and to develop the marketing and product strategy of the respective category.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from four-year-college or university in Marketing / Business. Experience may take place of a degree.
- 2-3 years Product Management
- knowledge of Sporting Goods Industry
- good numerical skills with the ability to negotiate
- ability to multi-task in a changing environment.

Store Supervisor:

Male : at least 5'6 and College Graduate
Female : at least 5'3 and College Graduate (experience is an advantage)

Sales Demo:

Male : at least 5'6" and 3rd year college level
Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Cashier:

Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture at:

Sportshouse Training Department
c/o Lino's Restaurant, 3rd Floor,
Ali Mall, Cubao Quezon City

We will only reply to qualified applicants.
Previous applicants need not apply.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

MARKETING / OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Must be a graduate of Marketing or Advertising
- Good in graphics, creative, computer literate
- Female, with good communication skills

TELCORA LTD. – www.telcora.com
31-J Mayon St. Boni Ave Mandaluyong
Tel # 534-6260 Email: RP@telcora.com

A Well-Established Company and Leading Supplier of High Quality Electrical, Industrial and Lighting Products is looking for Dynamic, Career-Oriented Individuals for its 2005 Operations

SALES MANAGER

Manage and supervise a sales team to meet its monthly group sales target. Formulate and implement sales and marketing strategies and programs to expand market and develop new customers. Train and motivate sales staff to achieve total teamwork and focus on assigned major products.

Male/Female, not more than 35 yrs. old, at least 5 years experience with proven track record of success with sales and account management. Excellent oral and written communication skills and knowledge of Chinese an advantage but not required.

Excellent compensation package + incentives for selected candidates.

SALES EXECUTIVES/ENGINEERS

Male / Female, not more than 35 yrs. old with pleasing personality and excellent communication skills. At least 2 years sales experience either in industrial/ commercial/ projects or institutional accounts. Ability to speak Chinese an advantage but not required. Above industry salary + commission for selected candidates.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR VP FINANCE

Female, 24-32 yrs old. Business/Finance/Accounting Graduate with at least 2 yrs. relevant work experience as Executive Assistant to VP Finance or in a related Finance capacity. Responsibilities include setting up and maintaining a system that ensures controls and implementation of policies in all financial activities related to sales, purchasing, cash transactions, disbursement, payments, monitoring and auditing of transactions, communications/coordination with different departments.

Must be good in Math, proficient in MS Office and can communicate proficiently in English and Chinese.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Female, 26-32 yrs. old, Accountancy Graduate preferably CPA with at least 3 years experience in auditing and bookkeeping, preparation of journal entries for other transactions not covered by AR/AP and other adjusting entries, maintains and monitors fixed assets general ledger/subsidiary ledgers and depreciation schedules, maintains bank reconciliation reports, record and monitor cash advances.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Male/Female, not more than 32 yrs. old, College Graduate with at least 2 years experience in Auditing and/or Administration Operations Management. Responsibilities include overseeing the management and maintenance of all office equipment and facilities. Can work with people at all levels of an organization with strong management skills, analytical and organized, self-motivated, aggressive, and proactive.

Applicants to apply personally with comprehensive resume, certificates and colored photo (2 x 2) or e-mail to hrd@zenithinternational.ph

Le Mar Ben Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
(Back of National Bookstore Avenida Branch) Tel 733-83-55 to 56
Look for Mr. Angelo Villanueva / Ms. May Anne Gutierrez

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ANALYSTS (English and Bi-linguals)

We are seeking for individuals who are interested to pursue a career in research and analysis of financial data. Preferably graduates of business-related courses, open to new graduates. Should be fluent in both written and spoken English. Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and Internet usage is needed. Should be detail oriented, self-motivated and should have good problem solving and customer service skills. Candidate must be able to demonstrate the ability to handle multiple priorities and must be willing to work in shifts.

We are also in need of Bi-lingual Analysts who are fluent in any of the following foreign languages: ***Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Norwegian, Scandinavian, German, Italian, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.***

If you are ready to take the challenge and work in a dynamic company, please send your application letter together with your résumé, indicating your expected salary, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo on or before **17 December 2004** to:

The Human Resources Group
The Thomson (Philippines) Corporation
20th Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center
6811 Ayala Ave.
1200 Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@tfn.com

We offer an attractive remuneration package, a five-day work week, retirement plan, allowances, annual leave days, medical, dental and life insurance coverage.

Only short listed applicants will be notified. Resumes will be filed for future reference and handled in the strictest confidence. Previous applicants need not apply.

COMPOSITE GROUP OF COMPANIES

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF IMPORTED CONFECTIONERY BRANDS SUCH AS TOBLERONE, NESTLE, FERRERO & VAN HOUTEN

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male / Female 25-32 years old
- At least 2 years experience selling to supermarkets
- Highly initiative and can work effectively with minimal supervision
- Good communication skills and computer literate
- Results-oriented and can work well with peers
- Applicants for Cebu base also accepted

CONTACT: 8123601 TO 03
BRING RESUMÉ, 1 X 1 PICTURE & CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT

ACE PROMOTION & MARKETING CORPORATION

The Leader in the Promotions and Marketing Industry is in URGENT NEED of two (2):

PROJECT MANAGERS

- Male / Female with ages 23 to 35 years old
- College Graduate with at least two years experience in a field research work environment
- A person with a pro-active attitude that works with minimal supervision
- Has good communication and can analyze and evaluate field research work results
- Knows well the Visayas and Mindanao Region
- Competitive compensation commensurate to Qualifications
- Applicants must be willing to be assigned in Cebu or Davao

Send your Resume with a 2x2 picture to any of the following:

Head Office:
RECRUITMENT OFFICER
Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
#144 Pinatubo Bldg., Pinatubo St., Mandaluyong City

Email address: brian_arcilla@acepromotion.com.ph

Cebu Office:
AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER
Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
#6 Franco Warehouse Hiway Seno,
Mandaue City Cebu

Email address: acecebu@pldtdsl.net

Davao Office:
AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER
Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
Km. 9 Bo. Pamapanga, Hizon Bldg., Davao

Email Address: acedavao@pldtdsl.net

Come and Grow with us!!!!!!!

We are a **triple "A"** resort catering to the high-end international market. To complement our existing organization, we are looking for a highly competent and results oriented individuals to fill up the positions of:

EXECUTIVE CHEF

- At least 2 years experience in an international Hotel / Resort
- Strong Managerial Skills to be able to organize and run his kitchen well
- The ability to run a Restaurant and manage Banquet functions
- Must be familiar with international cuisine, creative and innovative
- Knowledge of Cost Control Principles
- Ability to design creative menus.

EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

- At least 3-5 years experience with a five star Hotel / Resort
- Must have the ability to maintain the highest standard of service
- Eye for detail (meticulous)
- A good Team player
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Willing to relocate to a site in Northern Cebu.

RESTAURANT MANAGER

- Must have a least (5) years experience in the Restaurant Operations of a first class hotel / resort
- capable of leading and motivating people to work effectively and efficiently.
- Must able to maintain the highest standards of service
- Must have an excellent communication and managerial skills with the ability to train and improve skills of staff

SPA SUPERVISOR

- College graduate with pleasing personality
- At least 25 years old with experience in managing world class spa
- Possesses strong managerial skills to organize and run a holistic soon to open world class spa
- Knowledge of Japanese and / or Korean language is an advantage.

Interested Parties may send their bio data with 2x2 photo to:

P.O. Box 1094
Cebu City 6000

Glee Electronics, Inc.
Your vital link to innovative solutions

MARKETING ASSISTANT (2)

- Graduate of a four-year Business/ Management Course
- Has good analytical and communication skills
- Assertive, aggressive, resourceful and hardworking
- Male / Female, not over 24 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply!

CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF (2)

- Graduate of a four-year Business/ Management/Computer Course
- Assertive, aggressive, resourceful and with initiative
- Has good analytical and communication skills
- With experience in telemarketing an advantage
- Male / Female, not over 25 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply!

Please send your comprehensive resume with 2x2 colored picture to:
The HRD Department
#33 A. Rita Cor. S. Tuano St. Brgy Batis, San Juan
Tel. No. 7441371 to 76 or email your resume to abbie.diokno@glee.com.ph

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IPSEN
Innovation for patient care

IPSEN, one of the top 5 healthcare companies in France and a leading research & development group in the fields of oncology, endocrinology and neuromuscular disorders, is in need of the best applicants to pursue a challenging and rewarding career within its TranscontinentalAsia Operations as

REGIONAL MEDICAL AFFAIRS MANAGER

(Reporting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Reporting to the Medico-Marketing Manager for Transcontinental Asia, and functionally to the Medical Department in Paris, France, the successful candidate shall be tasked with identifying, evaluating and training investigators and study staff, preparing and reviewing informed consent documents and regulatory files; tracking and reporting study site progress and assisting in negotiating and managing clinical study budgets. Besides managing investigative sites, he/she must monitor clinical studies, identify and clarify deficiencies as well as review and resolve discrepancies in clinical data. Other responsibilities include pharmacovigilance management, medical validation of Asia marketing tools, medical training of Ipsen employees and partners and networking of key opinion leaders. Our requirements are as follows:

- Medical Doctor, Philippine board certified
- Specialization in pharmacology or any of the key Ipsen specialties, an advantage but not a requirement
- Good problem solving abilities and experience in undertaking clinical research and medical writing, a big plus
- Excellent English communications skills, both written and verbal
- Willing to travel extensively
- Adept in MS office particularly Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Outlook

Remuneration package will depend on qualification and working experience. Interested candidates are invited to apply by sending a detailed resumé including expected salary, contact telephone number and a non-returnable passport-size photograph before 28th December 2004 to the following address:

The Country Manager
IPSEN Philippine Operations
Suite 24.04, One San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Telephone: (+632) 687 6575
Email: odarvin@compass.com.ph

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How I broke free from the chicken yard to become an eagle

By Cymbeline R. Villamin
Contributor

POSTCARDS *from the* CORPORATE EDGE

WHEN people can't dream, they explode. For almost a decade, I had ceased to dream so that one mid-morning last November I exploded when I fell into the trap that my enemies in the workplace had set up to destroy me. It was a culmination of a series of strategies to demolish me.

I lashed out at both boss and colleague of lesser rank. In return, my computer was password-locked and eventually crashed. I requested a transfer from the higher authority but he kept on postponing our scheduled meeting. I sent him an e-mail but he did not reply. I stopped reporting for work. Apparently, my office enemies succeeded in their demolition job.

I am grateful to read from Dave Meyer's "Lifelines" that with our consent, God will take circumstances designed by Satan to destroy us and use them to perfect us.

Lesser birds

I am sure my office enemies fantasize about my getting deeper into debts without my regular salary and possibly forfeiting my retirement benefits because I am AWOL (absent without leave) and so I will be penniless at age 60 years when all of them will be enjoying their monthly pension from the GSIS with even a lump sum in their bank accounts.

Okay, let them be happy. I have no choice but to look at the brighter side of things. I'm glad I'm out of the chicken yard. I just realize that all these years I have been with the other chickens scratching around in the dirt of life. These lesser birds spend most of their time flapping around, frantic about one thing or another and trying to always get quick fixes—*isang kahig, isang tuka*—not just materially but spiritually as well. If ever they "reincarnate" into a higher kind of birds, they will fly in flocks. But not an eagle. An eagle soars high alone. I am meant to be an eagle. I declare this with joyous humility.

Solo flight

Let me tell you more about the eagle, which I read from Joyce Meyer. Once an eagle attains a certain height, he soars and does not spend much energy flapping. He does not work so hard. The eagle does not eat dead meat, he wants everything fresh, which is the way we should want it. We should desire a fresh anointing and fresh manna from God. We must be refreshed on a regular basis. The eagle knows this and takes time for regular renewal. The eagle knows how to "wait." He sits on the rock and quietly waits for the wind current to lift him to greater heights. We need to do the same thing, we need to wait for the "wind current" of the Holy Spirit to lift us above the situations we are in. At the moment, I am waiting and I'm glad to share this waiting hour with the "People at Work" page of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

I am undergoing a difficult time of loneliness and uncertainty. Being a mother to six kids and the sole breadwinner in the family (my husband is a stay-at-home dad who takes care of our autistic son), I feel somewhat guilty for not reporting to work and not playing office politics, thus, losing the salaries due me. But this is God calling... I should not harden my heart. My deceased mom used to tell me when I worry about tomorrow and what we shall eat, drink, and wear, "God will provide." And so I dare to trust God. Because for so many times in the past, He had been faithful. He never deserted me in greater things, surely He will not forsake me in lesser things. (*Email the author at* crvilla min@yahoo .com.)

(*Send your contributions to Postcards from the Corporate Edge to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'Jobs, jobs everywhere but not a single one for me!'

From page 7★★

receive "inbound" calls in response to 1-800, toll-free calls. They answer questions and respond to complaints about the products or services their clients are selling or providing. An inbound agent receives a minimum of 60 to 70 calls a day and a maximum of 100 to 120 calls usually before and after a US holiday, or on Fridays and Mondays. They are expected to resolve problems or conflicts.

The outbound agents or telemarketers are expected to contact prospective clients who are decision-makers and translate every call into a sale. They have a daily quota in terms of minimum number of successful sales per day. A telemarketer is expected to have 50 to 60 closed sales a month and the figure is translated into daily and weekly closed sales.

Recruitment process

How are CSRs hired? If you read the Classified Ads section of the Sunday Inquirer and other newspapers, you will see big ads welcoming qualified applicants to apply for positions as customer service representatives. These ads specify the following basic requirements: excellent English communication skills, ability to type 25 words per minute, better than average spelling skills, and good customer service skills. Excellent English communication skill is a must. The customer service agents call Americans and those who call them are Americans living in the US. Agents are supposed to be based in the US and assumed to be an American who speaks the language and knows the American culture.

The standard hiring process is for applicants to send their resumés and wait to be called for the initial interview. Advertisements for customer service representatives bring in about 1,000 resumés or even more. It is estimated that from this number, only about 100 are called for the initial interviews. Out of the 100 interviews, only about 10 applicants get called for the succeeding interviews. From 10, four get to the third interview session and from this, only one to two make it to the contract signing stage.

On-the-job exposure

The initial interview starts off a six-week process that can be described as a "baptism by fire." The applicant is made to experience what the work really is. In the first interview, applicants are interviewed in groups. Each one is made to read one page of tongue-twister words. The interviewer evaluates the pronunciation and diction. Then, an IQ test is given and the applicant is expected to get a rating of at least above average.

The second session consists of practical exams. The applicant has to show typing proficiency of at least 25 words per minute and computer language skills. Phone simulation tests their ability to memorize and retain information, such as name and data about the customer and about the product or service the applicant is supposed to sell. What is evaluated here is the potential of the applicant to convince a customer to buy the product or service.

The third and fourth session follows with the applicant being evaluated for his or her ability to learn fast, and to think on his or her feet, for his or her ability to give quick and accurate response to customers' need for information, or to respond to complaints.

Sales skills

If an applicant is applying for the position of telemarketer (outbound agent), he or she is made to sell a product or service on which no information is given to him or her. An example of this is when one is made to sell a product on a sport that the applicant knows nothing about.

Handling an irate or angry customer who is frustrated about the product or service and likely to use foul language is a constant challenge to customer service agents. These situations are meant to see the emotional maturity of the applicant and how creative, persistent and achievement-driven he or she is in handling different kinds and levels of customer dissatisfaction.

Usually, during the fourth session, the applicant makes a decision to go for employment or to abandon it. If he or she has a high achievement drive, he will go on, but this time with eyes wide open to the reality of the job requirements. To the successful trainees, contract signing follows.

(To be continued on Dec. 26, 2004).

(Ms Santamaria used to be the director of Career Materials Development Project (CMDP) of De La Salle University where she was also in the faculty of the Graduate School of Education, teaching courses in career counseling and guidance. The CMDP developed and published research-based career information materials for students and guidance counselors to facilitate career decision-making. The project was closed when the government, through the National Manpower and Youth Council, decided it had no more funds to invest in it. Ms Santamaria is the founding president of the Career Development Association of the Philippines. Presently, she is the president of Career Systems, Inc. a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@qi net.net.*)*

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Young manager provides executives to local and multinational companies

KINTANAR JOSEPH AGCAOILI

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

HR FOCUS

HIRING the right people is not an easy task, especially when it's for multinational manufacturing companies and global software development corporations. The challenging task of providing executive and managerial professionals to local and multinational companies lies upon newly promoted Karmeli Kintanar, manager of KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.

KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc., an affiliate of KPMG Laya Mananghaya and Co., is an executive search company that focuses on identifying and recruiting superior executives and managers to local and multinational companies. Relying on a large network of contacts and resources and an intensive research analysis, KSearch identifies the right candidates for management teams for different industries like telecommunications, management consulting, data management and consumer goods among others.

In a nutshell, Kintanar's area of responsibility goes beyond the usual requirements of human resources. Instead of hiring employees for its company alone, Kintanar handles executive search requirements for several companies. This is a management responsibility that she embraces with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose.

Consulting

A management graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, Kintanar didn't start from the bottom like most fresh graduates. She immediately took on a management role as corporate account manager for corporate sales at SMART Communications. In just a few months, she learned the art of client relationship when she handled accounts belonging to top 1,000 corporations in the country. After learning how to expand business relationships with clients, she decided to move on and explore consultancy. "I knew that I wanted to do consulting work, in one way or another, and executive recruitment gave me the opportunity to do that," shares Kintanar.

Initially, Kintanar had no interest in the human resources business. However, the company's managing director presented Kintanar the challenge of executive recruitment. KSearch's practice, which is a specialized form of management consulting, focuses on defining a company's leadership requirements as a function of its strategy, and then identifies and recruits the most appropriate candidate to execute that strategy. "I immediately appreciated the kind of exposure I got from doing executive recruitment, which is why I chose to develop myself in this profession," explains KSearch's manager.

Learning the language

Kintanar enjoys her people-oriented job. It requires her to interact with different high level professionals from different fields and industries everyday. "Executive recruitment has given me the opportunity to learn from the different and interesting people I meet on a daily basis, which is what I love most about my job," she shares.

There is also a big challenge that comes with the nature of her work. Dealing with people holding key finance positions, it is necessary for the young professional to understand their language and culture. She works closely with clients to understand their strategy, structure, culture and management style. "An effective manager in the executive recruitment business should be considered knowledgeable in the functional and industry areas she is handling and be able to bank on that knowledge or expertise to grow the business."

Beyond human resources, she is also responsible for research analysis and consultancy. This means that she actively advises on market conditions, client organization and defining executive needs, developing position specifications and helping create compensation packages. "I need to be able to understand their language in order to make good judgments on their competencies. Thus, the learning never stops for me. There will always be new developments in the finance function that I have to be up-to-date with."

Management style

As if dealing with multinational clients and executive level applicants is not enough challenge, Kintanar's area of responsibility also covers team management. Aside from monitoring the status of assigned accounts, she also checks on the performance of the teams working on the different accounts. Her management style is basically rooted from passion. "I am very enthusiastic about the job, which is an attitude that I try to rub off on my team."

Just recently promoted, Kintanar draws support from her people by trying to bring them together to work on a common goal. "We value teamwork within the organization and with our clients, professionalism in all our business activities, quality in our product and client service, fairness in dealing with clients, candidates, colleagues, and competitiveness in terms of services offered."

Kintanar claims that KSearch is a learning organization. She says that the interactions with candidates and clients have allowed everyone in the firm to learn new things about the business everyday. As a new manager, she takes advantage of this culture. Every day, she is still improving her skills in developing new business for the company. "I am quite confident of my ability to handle actual recruitment assignments, even for very senior positions. So the challenge of stepping outside my comfort zone and developing new business is what still makes the job interesting."

Purpose-driven

At 26, Kintanar is relatively young. Considering her scope of responsibility, she does not allow herself to be intimidated. Instead, she looks at this challenge as an opportunity for fulfillment and purpose. She mentions the book "The Way" by St. Josemaria Escriva as an inspiration for her purpose-driven life. The book has guided her work and other endeavors. "It basically opens up a new way of sanctification for ordinary professionals like me through properly fulfilling my duties at work, with my family, and in my community."

Kintanar also considers her new position as a way to broaden her exposure. Always hungry for knowledge, she never shys away from new challenges and responsibilities, a mindset she hopes people of her age would try to follow. Remembering how she was never really interested in the human resources field, she has learned to be open to possibilities. "When young, it is better to broaden one's exposure. Then decide on which special field of interest to be deeper in knowledge, to the point of being an expert in such field.

Another way she is also trying to follow is that of her managing director's. "He has built our practice to be more than just simple recruitment but a management consulting practice. I try to follow his way of encouraging our team to take advantage of every encounter with an applicant, client and other people to enhance our knowledge."

'Jobs, jobs...'

From page 8★★

I decided to put together career information from the data I obtained from interviews with a total of 12 customer service representatives, both inbound and outbound. Several HR managers in two big call center companies, two in a medium-sized and one in a small-sized company, answered the questionnaires I sent them.

This information will be useful to a person faced with a career choice in whatever stage in life he or she is in, a high school student deciding on a college course or a training program, an adult at midlife having doubts about the wisdom of choices made while still young, or an elderly person contemplating a retirement career.

More and more call centers are opening in the Philippines because US companies with products and services to sell prefer Filipinos due to their reputation for good performance, their ability to speak and understand English better and better capacity to speak English the way Americans do. Also, our country has lower cost of service and labor compared to other countries in Asia.

Big call center companies advertise their job openings; many do not. They depend on word of mouth through their employees, job fairs and career expos, walk-ins and placement offices in schools.

CSRs

The manpower of call center companies are composed mostly of customer service representatives or CSRs. Customer service representatives or agents are the frontline people who answer or make calls, send e-mail and chat online with their client's customers. Call centers have two types, one is "inbound" and the other is "outbound." The inbound or customer service reps

JOBS/P.6★★

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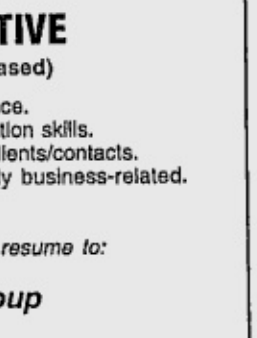

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'Jobs, jobs everywhere but not a single one for me!'

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Josie Santamaria

THEY say that there are thousands and thousands of job vacancies that need to be filled. How come I still don't have a job? I graduated with a degree in AB Communication Arts from a good school in the Ilocos Sur region. Because there are no vacancies in my province, I moved to Manila six months ago in the hope of getting a job here. I've sent my resumé in response to advertised vacant positions. I have gone to job fairs sponsored by the Public Employment Service Office . I've not been successful. I was called for interview by five companies but did not receive any job offer.

When I look at the Job Market of the Sunday Inquirer, I see that most of the job vacancies are in call center companies. Is there a chance for me to be employed as a customer service representative, which seems to be in great demand? I'm afraid to apply because I can't speak English fluently. Please advise me because I do need a job desperately.

Ms Desperate

Your anxiety about getting a job is understandable. Your resumé got you several job interviews that have not led to job offers. There are many thousands of college graduates like you who have difficulty finding jobs. They are not even concerned about getting jobs in the right career. "Just any job" is what many desperately want. But believe it or not, there are thousands of job vacancies waiting to be filled by the right persons. By "right person," I mean one ...

• with the right work experience and/or educational background and training, which provide the applicant with entry level knowledge and skills which can be demonstrated;

• who passed their various employment examinations or tests;

• who impressed the interviewers during the interviews with their positive work attitudes ("can do," "winner," optimistic) and self-confidence

And, yes, for customer service agents in call center companies, one must be able to communicate and express himself or herself well in English. These are the basic requirements for most job vacancies that require a college degree.

Lacking in job entry skills

However, even with thousands of available jobs, college graduates often cannot find jobs mainly because they lack the entry or basic skills and knowledge required for the job openings. This sorry state of affairs could be due to the following:

• They took courses that are not suited to them in terms of their interests and personality, their abilities and aptitudes.

• The schools from which they had taken these courses have poor faculty, poor facilities and equipment.

• They took courses for which there is no demand for employment.

Many of our high school and college students tend to take courses that are popular, courses that will provide them employment abroad, or courses their parents want them to take. They have no information about the careers these courses would lead them to. They get no assistance in assessing their interests, personality strengths, their abilities and potentials. They have no trained counselors to give them psychological assessment, interpret the results to them and guide them in making the right choice of a course leading to the right career. They have no access to information about manpower projections and requirements that they could have obtained from the Department of Labor and Employment in a format that they, their parents and their guidance counselors can use.

All about call centers

Since you are one of five readers who had written me inquiring about jobs and careers in the call center industry,

JOBS/P.7★★

PEOPLE at WORK columnists (standing from left to right) Teresa Reyes Tunay, Bishop Precioso Cantillas, Tita Datu Puangco, (seated from left to right) Josie Santamaria, Ernie Cecilia and editor Regina Galang Reyes.

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Cut the rope, hold on to life!

By Regina Galang Reyes

WE STRIVE so hard for success at work and at home. We have a long internal list of "musts" and the "shoulds" of what we need to do to succeed in both. Sometimes, we are so tied up to this list that our days are so jampacked with appointments and obligations that we can hardly breathe. We think that for as long as we do what's on our list, our lives will be secure and we will be able to reach the summit of that mountain that we have set our sights on.

Here's a story that can cut us from the bondage of that list, which was emailed to me by my sister-in-law in the US.

"A mountain climber wanted to climb the highest mountain. She begun her adventure after many years of preparation, but since she wanted the glory just for herself, she decided to climb the mountain alone. She started to climb but it begun to get very late, and instead of preparing her tent to camp, she kept climbing until it got very dark.

"The night felt heavy in the heights of the mountain, and the woman could not see anything. All was black. Zero visibility, and the moon and the stars were covered by the clouds. As she was climbing, only a few feet away from the top of the mountain, she slipped and fell into the air, falling at a great speed. The climber could only see black spots as she went down, and the terrible sensation of being sucked by gravity.

"She kept falling and in those moments of great fear, it came to her mind all the good and bad episodes of her life. She was thinking now about how close death was getting, when all of a sudden she felt the rope tied to her waist pull her very hard. Her body was hanging in the air. Only the rope was holding her, and in that moment of stillness she had no other choice but to scream: 'Help me, God!'

"All of a sudden, a deep voice coming from the sky answered: 'What do you want me to do?" She cried, 'Save me, God!' The voice answered, 'Then cut the rope tied to your waist.' There was a moment of silence; and the woman decided to hold on to the rope with all her strength.

"A rescue team found the climber the next day dead and frozen ... her body hanging from a rope. Her hands holding tight to it ... only 10 feet away from the ground."

Our list is like a rope that keeps us surviving from day to day. But we don't realize that the list may be the thing that keeps us from living the life we were meant to live on this earth. Putting our faith on a list, rather than on our connection with a Higher Being, is a lot like that mountain climber who did not realize that cutting the rope would enable her to live.

What can we do to free ourselves from the "shoulds" and "musts" that we have listed for ourselves? Here are some guideposts to enable you to cut the rope:

• Whenever you are tempted to add another "should" on your list, ask yourself, is this something that will be important to be me on my deathbed? Sometimes this morbid question can jolt you to the reality of what's important and what's not in this world.

• When you are faced with conflicting "shoulds," ask, which one will deepen your spiritual connections with your self, loved ones and other people? Choose to fulfill the obligation that will bring in spiritual rewards rather than material rewards.

• When you seem to be facing insurmountable odds, ask yourself, are you trying to climb your mountain by yourself? Be willing to receive support, not only give it. Some people do not want to receive support because of pride and ego.

Finally, ask yourself, what other "ropes" have you been clinging to in your life that prevent you from living? It's time to cut them and savor the fullness of your life.

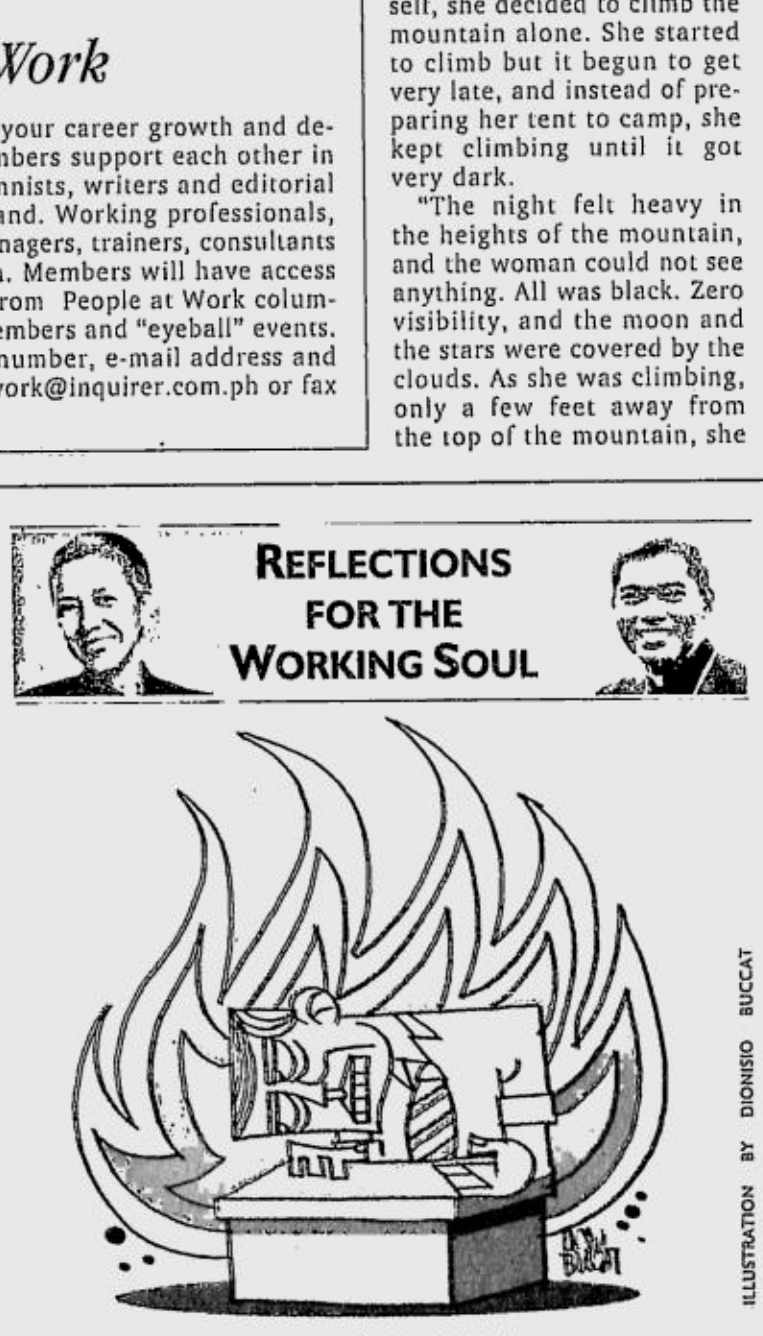
(Reprinted with permission from Metro Working Mom. Send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.)

Laws and love

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

SOMETIMES readers ask us, "How do you find ways to connect the Gospel verses to work situations?" When it comes to problems at work, "practical" people think the only solutions are those found in operation manuals, company rules, or the country's laws. For them it's unthinkable that Jesus' teachings and lessons in the Gospel can also be relevant or come very handy in solving—and preventing—workplace difficulties. These "sensible" people like to think of themselves as "down to earth," therefore, they can't quite grasp the connection between the Lord's teachings and a better workplace. They miss the fact that is simple, clear and elementary: laws are based on love, and love is all that Jesus teaches.

When "practical" decision-makers separate Jesus from their work world, their problem-solving results in palliatives that don't last, in remedies that are fair to one party but not quite so to another, in solutions that satisfy them at the expense of the small workers. When ordinary workers leave the Lord's teachings out of their work life, they come to look for and depend on other people (like unscrupulous labor leaders) to save them from workplace miseries. A workplace without the wisdom of Christ breeds tyrants and victims, and in due time grows to be the launching pad of labor strikes, mutinies, and rebellions. Whatever our position in the workplace, we can allow the spirit of Christ to operate in us, and when we have it guiding our moves and decisions, we don't have to "look for another" messiah to save us with their human laws; we have Love, the fulfillment of the law, to secure our future. *(E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)



Gospel - Mt. 11:2-11

When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

The 'messiah' in work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

AS JOHN and his disciples in today's Gospel were expecting to find the true Messiah, many of us would also want our work to be some kind of a messiah—something which could free us from many forms of slavery and evil and could satisfy our needs and desires. For most of us, work and its fruits could provide us our livelihood; could give us the sense of security in life while working, and at retirement age. For many, working all through life could give a sense of fulfillment and happiness. While some feel these saving experiences with work, others would find work enslaving instead.

When we work for selfish motives or even for the sake of work itself, we soon lose the value and meaning of working and start to feel like a slave, grudgingly submitting ourselves to the master—the unavoidable work. We work with "fear and trembling," suffering more stress and fatigue than necessary until our health fails and we feel miserable all our life. The workplace would become like "hell" for us and everyone in it is either a threat we have to eliminate or destroy or an "object" we can use for our advantage. We, therefore, need to look at work in another way and find the "true messiah" in it.

Looking at work with the "eyes of faith" will make us accept the burden, fatigue, and difficulties of work as our share in the sufferings of the Christ for our salvation. Faith makes us see Jesus the Messiah in our stressed employers or in the face of our tired coworkers. In the midst of an oppressive workplace, work itself becomes our salvation. *(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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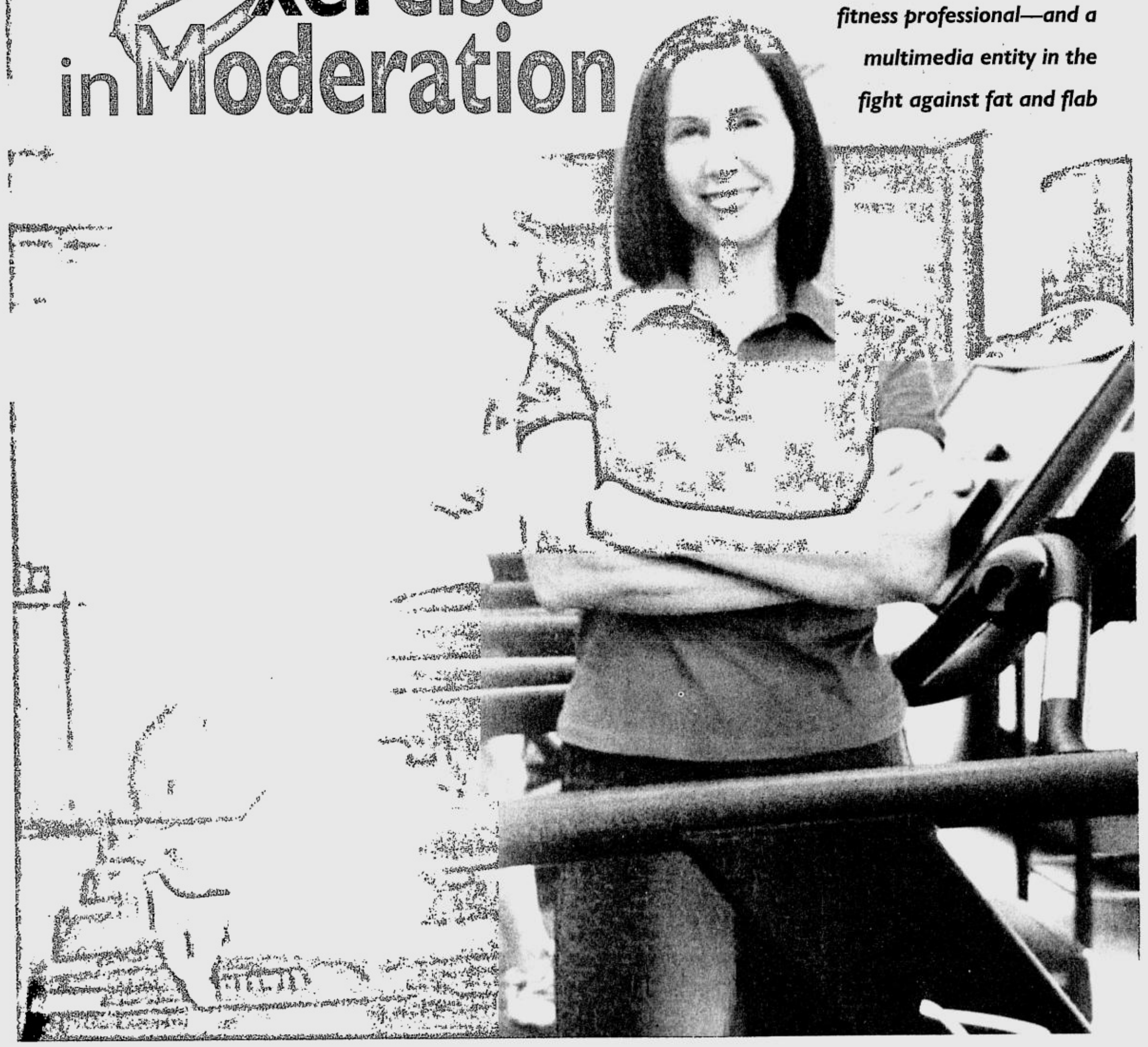
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
December 12, 2004

Tina Juan's Exercise in Moderation

Overcoming an eating disorder started this maverick mom on the path to becoming the country's most trusted fitness professional—and a multimedia entity in the fight against fat and flab



By Ruel S. De Vera
Photograph by Romy Homillada

IT'S AS if Tina Juan had walked into one of those glass-walled workout studios, and suddenly, she is everywhere. As the most trusted fitness professional today, every move she makes is echoed by countless others. In print and on television, the 46-year-old Juan has stretched and curled herself into becoming the public's go-to girl when it comes to fitness, regularly discoursing on diets, expounding on exercise, fishing out facts about food. She's our cardiovascular crutch, and she's been at it for over two decades."I didn't plan to be here but I am happy and grateful to be here," Juan says. "I do want to do more."

Few of those who read her column or watch her on television know that, to become healthy and wise, Juan had to go through her own health crisis, a harrowing experience that actually led her to the mission of a lifetime.

First, one needs to dispatch the myth that Juan was a superwoman to begin with. Far from it. "I was an athletic klutz," she admits. Growing up, Juan wore glasses since she was 9 (she's had Lasik surgery since) and couldn't really get involved in anything that required hand-eye coordination. Ballet and jazz lessons didn't change that. "I'm not some super-athlete. I feel like I know what the average person goes through."

She was born Ma. Cristina Aboitiz, the eldest of electrical engineer Ernesto Aboitiz and homemaker Marie Ibañez's five children, part

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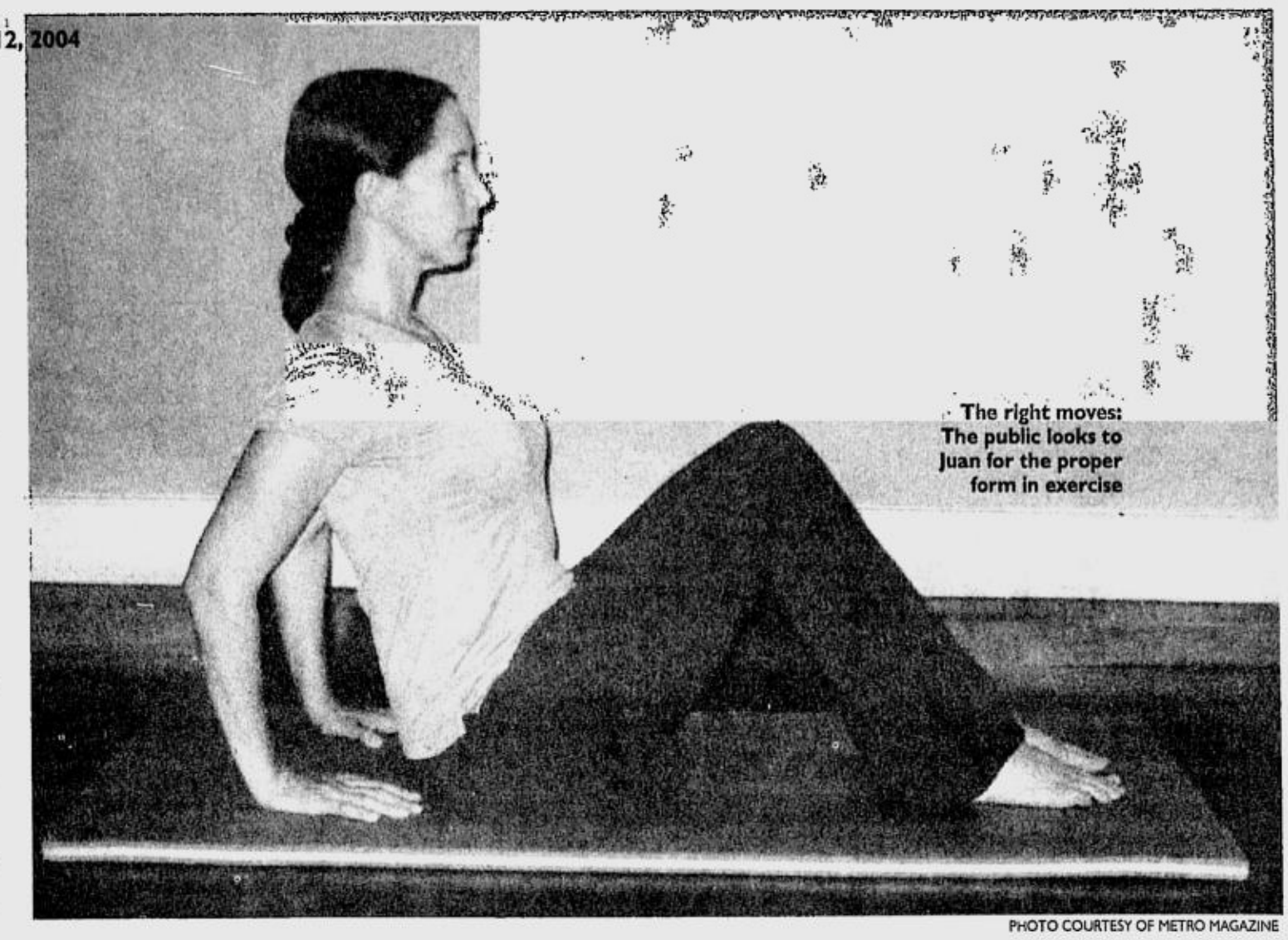
Their Canadian Dream—or Nightmare?
by Annie Gorra Rago, p.4

Philippine Ballet's New Paladin
by Cora Llamas, p.6



The right moves: The public looks to Juan for the proper form in exercise

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO MAGAZINE

Tina...*from page 1*

of a family that stands among the unofficial royalty of the South. Juan was born and raised in Davao, engaging in a very active life outdoors in then quite rural territory. "It was quite unlike the childhood of today," she recalls. "No going to the mall." Juan finished high school at Philippine Women's College at 15, and began a whirlwind tour of campuses nationwide during very brief stays at St. Theresa's College in Cebu, Brent International School in Baguio and St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

She transferred to the University of the Philippines-Diliman, where she took up BS Biology because she had originally wanted to be a doctor. "I had fun there." She didn't finish, and would later attend the University of Boulder in Colorado—for two short weeks. "At which point, I told my father I wanted to come home," she says. She did come home, and in 1979 married businessman Domingo Juan, Jr. They have two children, Cat, 24, and Miguel, 21.

Ironically, it was a brush with an eating disorder that initially triggered Juan's interest in physical fitness. Thin as a child, Juan began putting on weight in her teens, the normal weight gain for a girl. She began dieting, her weight seesawing because she didn't know better. She was only 14 when the first stages of bulimia set in, the sickness fully coming to bear the next year. Moving away from Davao, Juan was put under a lot of stress being away from home. "Somebody taught me how to throw up," she says. "It got to the point that I was hiding it everyday. Bulimics eat extremely large quantities of food, actually; it's just that they regurgitate the food afterwards." Juan's bulimia reached its peak when she was 17, when she had a bout of depression. "It got really bad, and my parents had be called in," she remembers. Juan explains that she was suffering emotionally and mentally prior to that point. "I thought that all my problems in the world were because I was 20 lbs overweight, which was silly," she says. She wound up seeing a psychiatrist for a year. "That's when I made the crossover into healthy eating and exercising."

The turning point

The turning point was simply her realizing she was getting nowhere. "Forget it. If that's the price I'm gonna pay to be thin, it's not worth it. If I can't be thin, I can be healthy instead." Juan bought a book on nutrition, began eating well, and began walking 15 minutes to school in St. Scholastica, walking home for lunch and back. Then she took up yoga. "Back then, when you did yoga, people thought you were Hare Krishna. Now, it's more mainstream. It was then that I actually lost all the weight," she says.

When her husband was transferred to Davao, she went with him, a homecoming of sorts, later moving to Cebu. She gave birth to her kids. It was after giving birth to Miguel that she stopped exercising for a while, and it would take a year and half to lose the 30 pounds she put on. "I lost it the old fashioned way, watching what I ate and exercising."

The road to becoming a fitness professional opened up before her. She was working out in the Cebu gym of Lita Quisumbing, effectively her mentor. In 1985, Quisumbing asked Juan, "Why don't you think about making this a career?" It had never occurred to her. "Back then, if you took Physical Education, that meant you became a PE teacher." Taking her mentor's advice in 1987, Juan began teaching at her daughter's school, Christian Harvest Academy in Sun Valley, Parañaque, after school hours, free of charge, for the teachers and mothers. In 1989, she began looking for another venue. "We found a house which had this gigantic basement." Starting with low-impact aerobics, she began teaching in earnest.

In 1990, she went back to the States to get certified, earning a certification in Group Exercise from the American Council on Exercise. The same group would certify Juan for Personal Training in 1992 and Lifestyle and Weight Management in 1997. She was also certified for Exercise Leadership in 1994 by the American College of Sports Medicine. Juan has also received certification for Pilates and yoga.

She continued teaching until 1994. More and more people were coming to her house in Ayala Alabang, and the traffic caused her neighborhood association to take notice. Juan took her business, dubbed Fitness Advantage, to the Alabang Town Center. The business grew from there, with gyms opening in Davao and Cebu.

Writing would broaden her reach. Juan wrote a monthly column for Mega Magazine from 1994 to 1999. When Metro Magazine editor in chief (and then Lifestyle Editor for the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER) Thelma Sioson San Juan interviewed Juan in 1996, it led to Juan writing a weekly column for the INQUIRER, which she continues to write today. She also maintains a column for Metro, Health Today and Badminton Philippines.

From print to TV

Her INQUIRER column has led to other pursuits as well. One of the readers turned out to be Tess Suplico of Goodwill Bookstore. Suplico suggested compiling her columns into a book, titled "Lose Weight, Feel Good, Look Great." Goodwill was a major sponsor of the ABS-CBN early morning show *"Alas Singko Y Medya."* (Sing with us: *"Alas Singko Y Medya na..."*) ABS-CBN exec Jake Maderazo invited her to handle the show's fitness segment. Juan had her own concerns; she wasn't showing up in a skimpy outfit, and she wanted the segment to be "educational and informative." Maderazo agreed wholeheartedly, and Juan began appearing regularly on "ASYM" from 1998 to 2002.

Juan branched out that year, headlining her own daily show, "In Fitness & In Health," on Studio 23. "I thought that I really wanted to do a regular show about more than exercise, I wanted it to be practical and comprehensive." It's not about building bodies but about properly building a consciousness regarding health. "It's an advocacy," she says.

There are many other exercises that Juan wants to go into. Aside from more books, she intends to do exercise videos: "I want them to be cheap and affordable, a compilation of the exercises on the show, not to make tons of money but to get it out there." Juan's own website (http://www.tinajuanfitness.info) gathers her articles in a single site online, but she has something else cooking in cyberspace. Juan wants to put together an online fitness directory in 2005. "People are asking me all the time, 'Where can I take tai chi?' or 'Where can I find a doctor for my foot?'" This website is what she hopes will answer all those questions; in fact, if anyone wants to make an announcement about their services and activities on the free site, please do send her an e-mail at fitness@attglobal.net. "This directory would be a service to the country and the fitness community so that they can easily go there."

And on top of all that, she does a lot of doctors' conventions, something she considers very important. "Every doctor who is enlightened about fitness goes out and talks to so many patients. It affects so many people's lives." She co-founded the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines in 1990. "The idea was to bring continuing education to the Filipino instructor who could not afford to go abroad." Those who do go abroad have made a commitment to the over 1,500 members nationwide to teach what they learn abroad for free when they return.

A voracious reader up to now, Juan also writes a lot, correcting misconceptions. "It's human nature, going for the quick fix. I understand where they're coming from, because I came from there. I hate to be the killjoy, but I feel that if someone had set me straight when I was younger, it could have saved me a lot of grief."

So Juan wades into discussions about diets (Atkins and South Beach), exercise trends (Pilates and tae-bo) and others, putting time and energy into her commentary. "There is a media-driven drive towards health, and a lot of it is also very appearance-driven, especially among the young."

One by-product of her advocacy is the unrealistic expectations people seem to have of her, turning Juan into a saint in sweatpants. She gets sick, too. She feels that people are watching her when she's out in a restaurant. Juan takes it all in stride, though, as she accepts that she's a role model. "That's why I made a decision not to endorse anything. I wanted to keep my credibility."

Keeping balanced

From her bout with bulimia, Juan knows that she has a weakness: When she's stressed, she eats. So Juan changed her environment, making sure that none of the trigger foods for her overeating were around. "Because of that, if at 10 o'clock at night I'm feeling stressed out, there's nothing in the house to eat except healthy food." She totes a lunchbox with her, with sandwiches and an apple so the munchies won't catch her near a drive-through. She effectively outsmarts herself on a regular basis.

And the foods this former vegetarian loves but knows she needs to parsimoniously partake of? "Crispy *pata*, *chicharon* and stuff like Oreo cookies," she admits. But Juan believes in a very disciplined, specific way of eating. "I follow the 80/20 rule. This means that I eat healthy 80 perent of the time—and 20 percent of the time, I eat the stuff that tastes really good but is not good for me. As long as I keep it in that balance, I'm OK. It shouldn't be the other way around."

Juan's schedule remains very packed. She gets up at 5 a.m. and teaches a class at 7 a.m. She's in bed by 9 p.m. So what does Tina Juan do exactly to enjoy herself? On weekends, she goes to their house in Caliraya with her husband to do some gardening and kayaking. At home, she insists she relaxes by reading up on all

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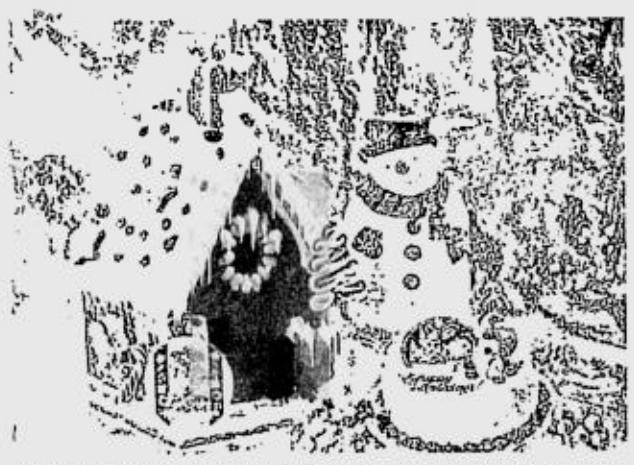
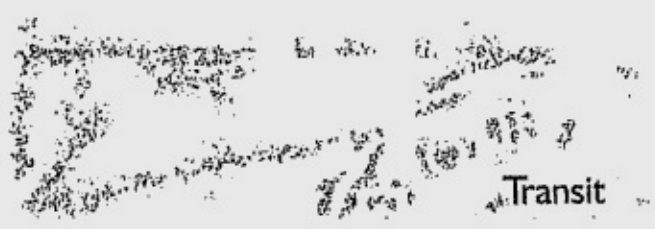


WINTER WONDERLAND Experience White Christmas at the New World Renaissance Hotel's grand lobby with snow-covered Christmas trees, snowmen, Santa's red sleigh, enchanting reindeer and a delightful gingerbread house with a cozy fireplace and goodies for sale. To complete the ambience, the Asilo Children's Choir fills the air with Christmas carols on Dec. 16 to 24 from 6 to 7 p.m. For inquiries, call 811-6866. *For more of This Week, see page 7*



Transit

Always the distance
between your hand
and the goosebumps
on the nape of the skyline
Always the distance
between your hand
and the peripheral
electric fan of daybreak
Always the distance
between your hand
and your mother
in a snowglobe in her heart
Always the distance
between your hand
and your other hand
freezing in the oven
Always the distance
between your hand
and night's nocturnal
nose on a noose
Always the distance
between your hand
and Manila's carnival
church in Quiapo
Always this silence
between my lips
each time your palm
bursts with sunlight
and cyclones
filled with old toys
and machineguns
spittingmemoryafter
memoryaftermemory
Always this predilection
towards your name
drooping like an arc
on the curvatures
of my brain Do you
hear the word "always"
echo thruout your universe
slightly larger than the tv
in your bedroom Paalam
So long Adios Sayonara
I'll see you again sometime
on a boat sailing infinitely
on the ocean of sadness
or when we've turned into cats
like you promised Always
I love you till mushrooms
grow on the banks
of the sun's cool rivers
and snakes penetrate
the swamps of the moon

Angelo V. Suarez

Photo Connection

By Annie Gorra Rago

Their Canadian Dream —or Nightmare?

Filipinos find out that starting a new life in the land of maple syrup is not that sweet. Here are some stories

WINTER brought good news to Marie Romero, a Filipino immigrant in British Columbia, a western province of Canada. The expected flow of tourists to Whistler, a premiere ski resort located in the province, has given her a chance to work at the Four Seasons Hotel.

After three years of unsuccessful job searches, Marie, who holds a master's degree in education from the California State University, finds that right now housekeeping at Four Seasons is the best option she has in Canada.

"I pounded the pavement going from mall to mall in Vancouver applying for a job but never found one," says this experienced educator. She found a few all right—a sales associate position at a computer store that lasted a few months, as telemarketer, mystery shopper, a Christmas stint at the Gap—but nothing permanent and nothing by way of a career.

To keep herself from brooding and to enhance her resume, she volunteered at the museums in cities nearby and went back to school. But the uncertainty of the past three years caught up with her this year, causing frustration and depression, which led her to seek therapy.

Marie's experience is nothing new to most Filipino newcomers in B.C. Not only do they find it difficult to continue the careers that they've worked so hard at in the Philippines, but sometimes, finding any job in the early years is like walking through the desert before reaching the promised land. They find out that starting a new life in the land of maple syrup is not sweet.

Antonia (not her real name) found this out first-hand when she moved her husband and two sons to Canada this year. "Canadian education and experience are given more weight in hiring," she says. "Most professionals are forced to accept casual and manual labor jobs just to be able to acquire the so-called Canadian experience."

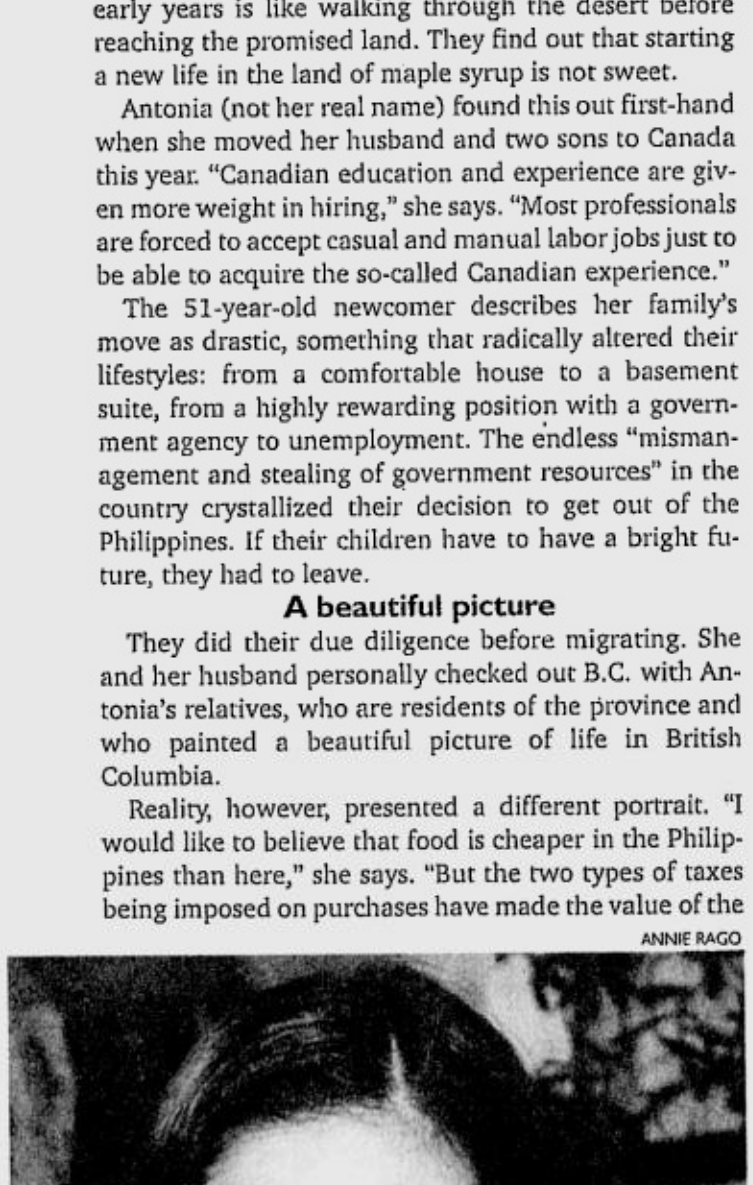
The 51-year-old newcomer describes her family's move as drastic, something that radically altered their lifestyles: from a comfortable house to a basement suite, from a highly rewarding position with a government agency to unemployment. The endless "mismanagement and stealing of government resources" in the country crystallized their decision to get out of the Philippines. If their children have to have a bright future, they had to leave.

A beautiful picture

They did their due diligence before migrating. She and her husband personally checked out B.C. with Antonia's relatives, who are residents of the province and who painted a beautiful picture of life in British Columbia.

Reality, however, presented a different portrait. "I would like to believe that food is cheaper in the Philippines than here," she says. "But the two types of taxes being imposed on purchases have made the value of the dollar minimal."

ANNIE RAGO



Maji Admana, a former NBI agent, worked as security guard before deciding to upgrade her credentials

She's getting anxious. A big source of her anxiety is being jobless. Knowing that her accounting certification and years of experience back home do not count for much in her new country, she's ready to take on almost anything. "Even a clerical position will do," she says. But even that is hard to come by for new immigrants.

Ask Maji Admana, former investigative agent with the National Bureau of Investigation and a Certified Public Accountant in the Philippines. She came to Canada with her husband and three children in February, 1997. The fear that she may never find a job cast a long shadow during her first year in Canada. It compelled her to go on overdrive on her job searches. "There was a period of about three months that I must have sent an average of 100 resumes a month," she recalls. No one responded.

But she held on. Her faith in God sustained her. "I knew that He had a plan for me," she says. When she did find work, it was with a security agency. She walked the beat at the Vancouver Public Library—three levels of underground parking and seven top floors by herself from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The upgrade

When she would see her reflection in the mirror dressed in the dreary security uniform of black pants and grey shirt, she couldn't help but ask, "Oh Lord, what have I done to myself?"

She has done quite well since then. Maji is smart, driven and goal-oriented. Early on, she has figured out the first rule of competition: upgrade. If she wanted to achieve what she came for in Canada, she had to accept the truth, which was that her accounting title in the Philippines was not enough to make it in her new homeland. She needed to upgrade her credentials in her new country. She studied Certified Management Accounting, a program that combines accounting know-how with management skills.

School was tough but tougher was the combination of being employee, mother, wife and student. "I multi-tasked. I helped my children with their homework while doing dishes," she says. This was the routine at the Admana household for about five years. The stress caused canker sores. "As soon as I finished my CMA, the canker sores disappeared," Maji says.

The designation cost CDN $20,000. Although her employer paid part of it, she shouldered 75 percent of the expense. But the CMA is worth the money and the canker sores. She is now the assistant controller of a telecom company in Burnaby, B.C., and the potential to go higher is there. "If I play my cards right, my future is looking good," she says.

Single mother Elsie Edillor is applying the same approach. A self-employed accounting management consultant in Cagayan de Oro, she is working toward a designation in Certified General Accounting to upgrade her Philippine accounting degree. Being a CGA student helped her get her present job as accountant for a travel company in Vancouver.

If it were up to her, she would have stayed put in the Philippines. "I was happy with the way things were," she says. But her son wanted to pursue a film career, and Canada offered the opportunity. In April 2002, this single mother and her then 20-year-old son came to Canada. "I am here to support my only family—my son," she says.

Marie Romero had to plow through three years of unsuccessful job searches

BENNY RAGO

The first year she worked as a billing clerk for a freight company and, to augment her income, as a cashier on a weekend graveyard shift at a casino. It took her four days to make up for lost sleep. They lived in cheap basement suites; one of them had an abandoned garage occupied by a big rat. These challenges—she never called them difficulties throughout the interview—did not dim her focus on why they migrated to Canada. "I was not disappointed. I was ready to face the challenge."

One tool that helped her get past the challenge of finding a job was networking. "Connect with people who can connect you with the work," she says. She and Maji got their present positions through their respective membership with the CGA and CMA. Marie's resourcefulness led her to connect with an immigrant services agency that helped her write and fax her resumes and locate job opportunities—all for free.

Network of support

Marie is amazed by the network of support that she found among Christians and fellow *kababayans*. "I am amazed that Filipinos here help total strangers. They don't care who you are or where you are from. If you need help, they help," she says.

So is Canada worth the pain? Elsie has no regrets. "I can see my son's dream in becoming involved in film-making coming true." Maji got what she wanted. "We have surpassed our achievements in the Philippines," she says. She sees a happy ending to her journey.

It's still too soon for Antonia to tell if Canada is worth the price of leaving a good career. The memory of the Philippines is still very fresh and the country beckons. "I am tempted to go back home," she admits. Her concern for her children, however, holds her back.

Marie's therapy is ongoing, but she's getting better. "I can see a little of the light at the end of the tunnel," she says. She has picked up lessons along the way: "It's not your diploma, not who you are. It's how you handle difficulties." She adds: "Have faith in God."

Coming from someone who has survived the test of fire for three years, the advice is worth more than a year's therapy.

Tips on How to Survive Canada in the Early Years

First, find a community that can give you moral and spiritual support. Marie found support among Filipino Christians.

Carmen Handinero, settlement counselor for new immigrants and coordinator of a mentoring program of the Multicultural Helping House, Vancouver, B.C. gave other tips on how to get through the early years in Canada:

Clarify your purpose for immigrating to Canada. "Some come here for economic reasons, and some to escape marital problems back home," Handinero says. When the purpose is clear, it is easier to get you where you want to go.

Level your expectations with reality and have some humility. "It is unrealistic to expect that you will get the same position in Canada as you have back home," she says. "You're virtually a beginner here."

Be strong. Carmen has seen family relationships disintegrate due to the strains of immigration. Spouses start blaming each other for their hardships in the first few years.

Volunteer and get involved in the community. "Canada has a culture of volunteerism," she says. It's one way of integrating into the community and knowing the Canadian culture. Volunteer groups are a good source for networking as well.

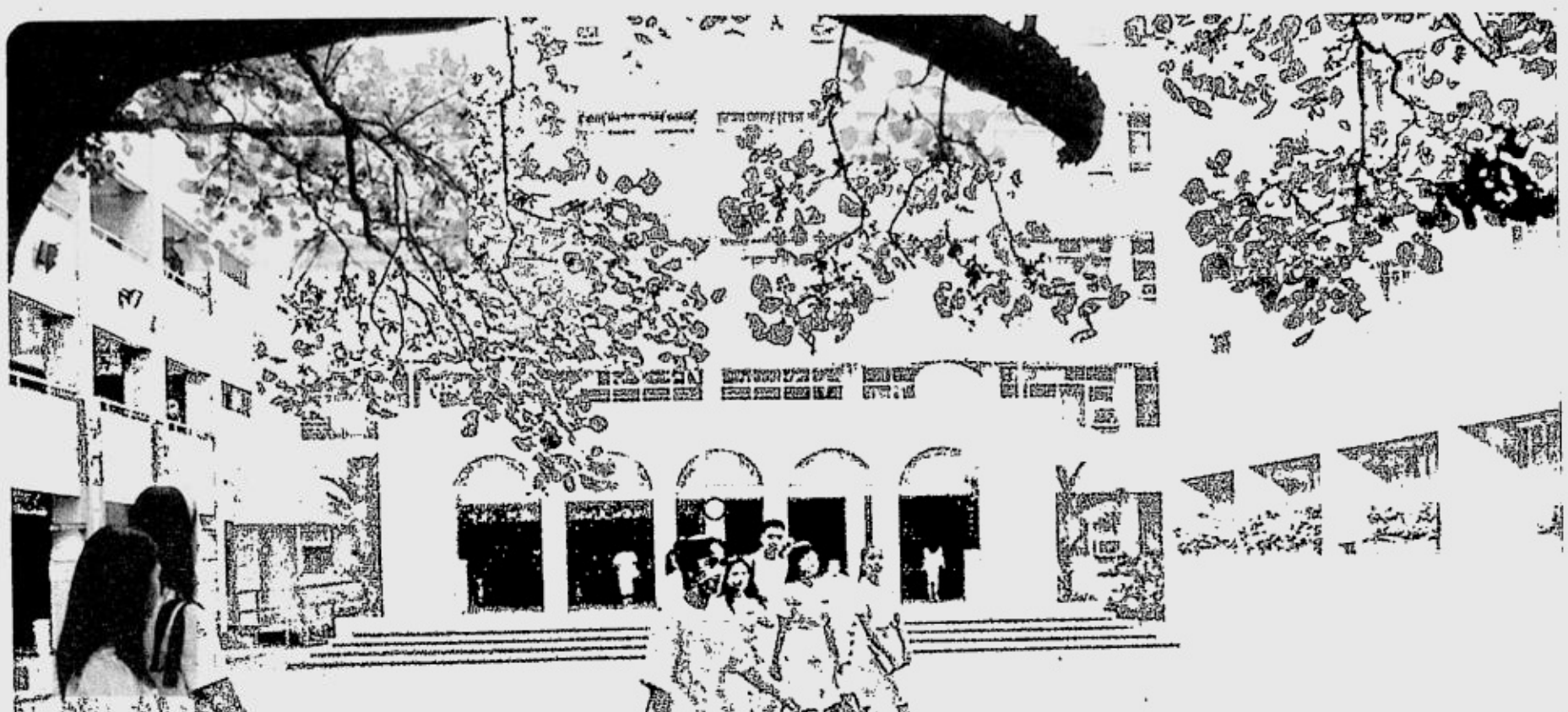
Upgrade credentials. Maji and Elsie realized early on that upgrading is the key to their success here. Check websites of Canadian professional associations to learn about their upgrade requirements.

A Winning Partnership

SMART Entrepreneurial Program@Pampanga

This partnership with SMART is a win-win situation where the company and the students benefit from the initiatives of each one.

---University President Pama

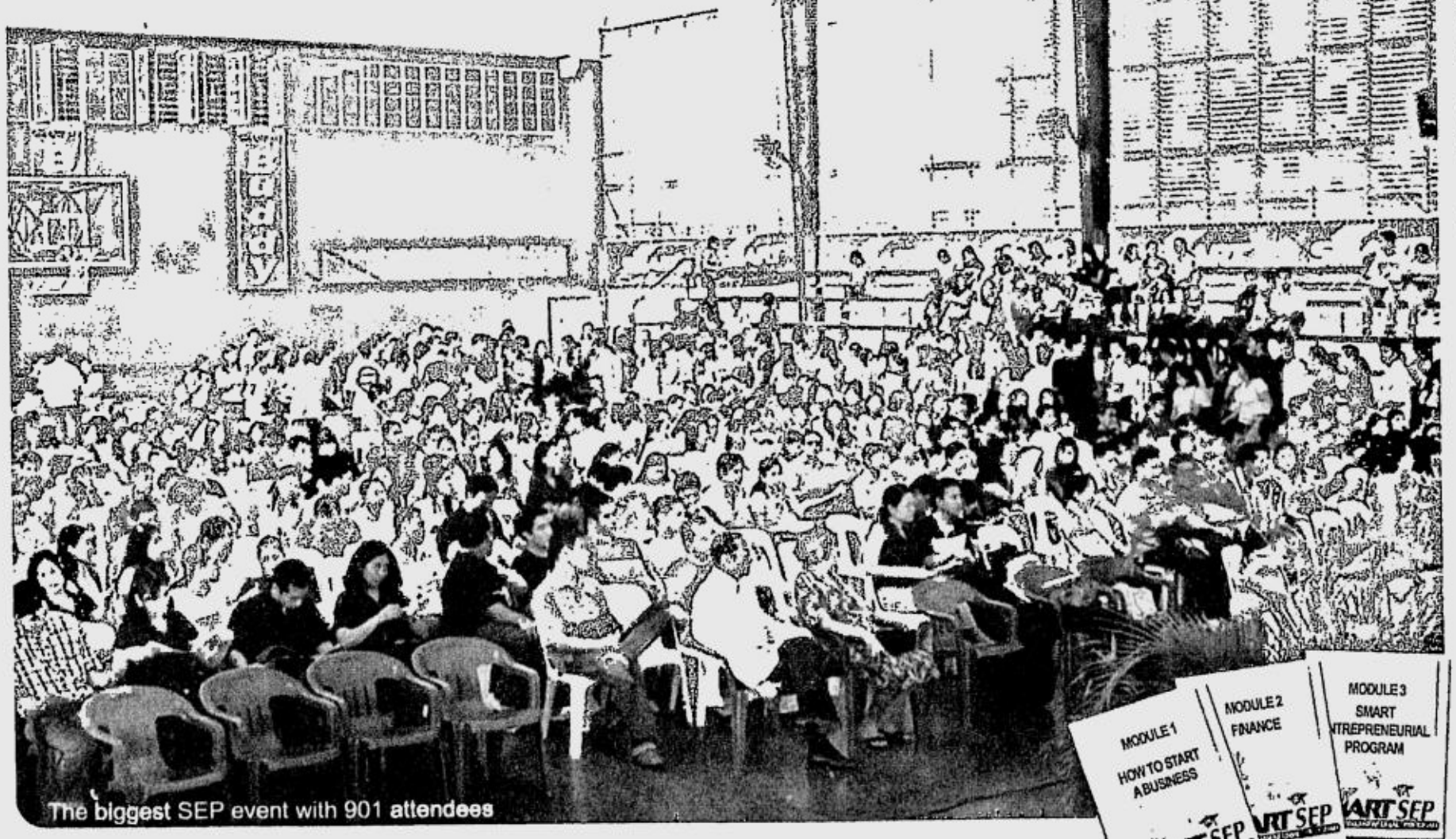


Angeles Foundation University plays host to SEP Pampanga

A show of hands for SMART subscribers

SMART
Simply Amazing!

SIM Swap booth made available for participants



The biggest SEP event with 901 attendees

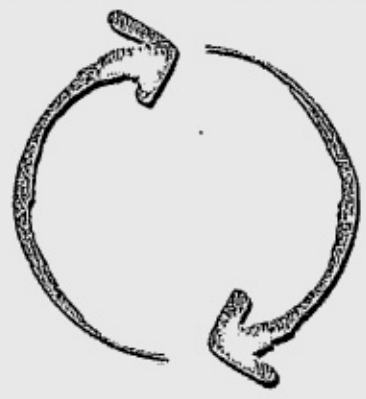
A crowded registration booth welcomes invited and walk-in guests

Manny on Entrepreneurship

"Businesses do transform societies. They not only shape our physical and our virtual worlds, but also create new needs, new hopes, and new dreams."

-- Manuel V. Pangilinan,
PLDT and SMART Chairman

It's not just about the innovations we bring...



It's about the opportunities we provide.

The SMART Entrepreneurial Program or SEP reaches Pampanga in its biggest event to date. 901 students from all over Pampanga and Metro Manila gathered in the Angeles Foundation University for a whole day affair that gave students and graduates alike a glimpse into the world of entrepreneurship. For University President Pama, this partnership with SMART is a win-win situation where the company and the students benefit from the initiatives of each one.

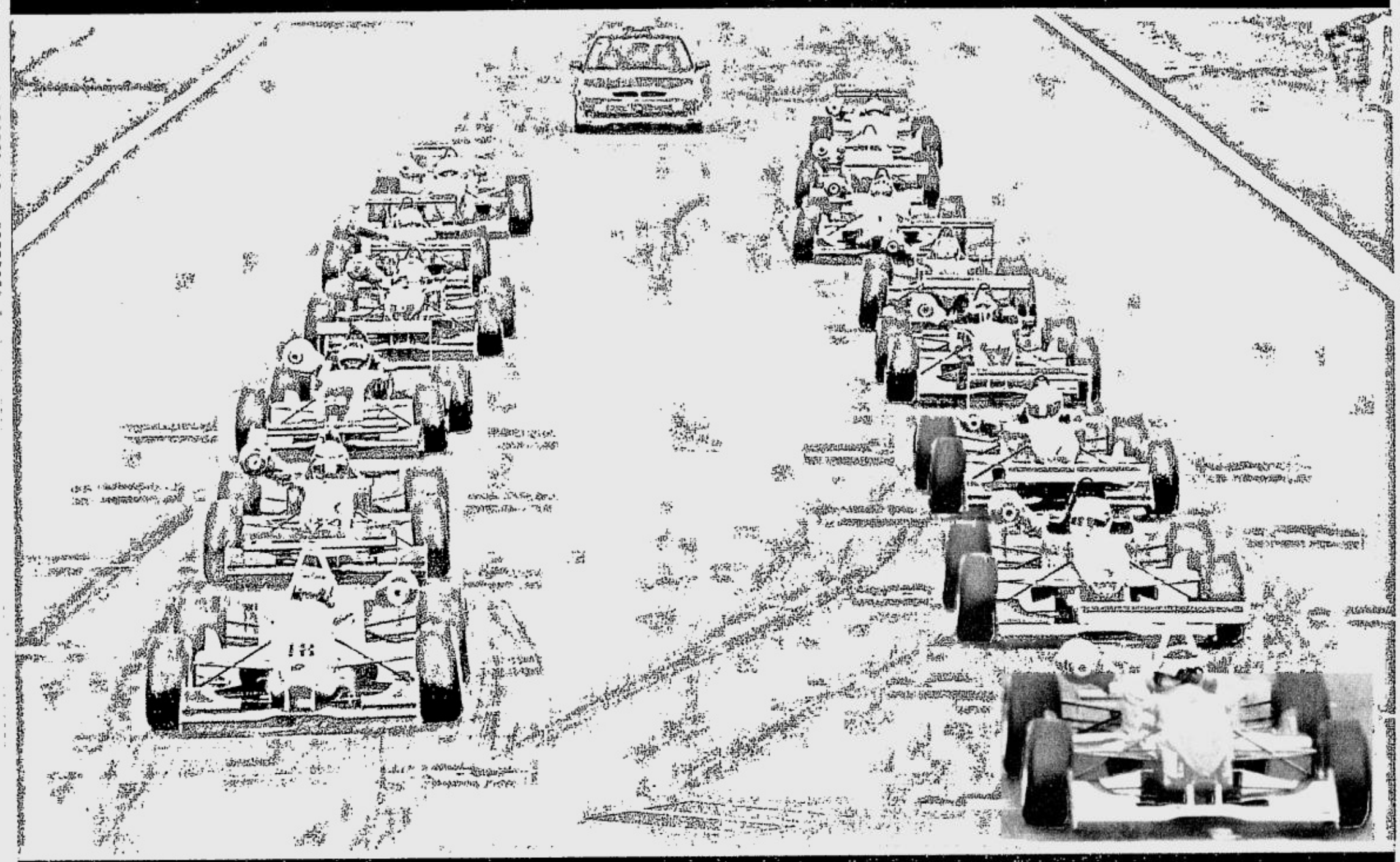
With a holding capacity of 1200 people, the school gymnasium was a good choice of venue. Expecting only 500-600 students, both the SMART organizers and faculty members were very much surprised and gladdened by the huge turnout. Out of the 901 attendees, 639 were graduates and only 262 were still studying. A text broadcast was done in preparation of the event and even then the interest of young housewives, recent graduates, and even working folks were seen via their inquiries and responses.

Crowd favorites were Mr. Butch Bartolome's talk on "How to Start A Business" and the SEP module, which presented SMART's answer on how each one can begin to become an entrepreneur. Participants were surprised at how easy it was to earn your own capital while countless others were inspired to begin something of their own. For the undergrads a job fair was held after the series of talks. Here, they got to submit their resumes to companies like E-Global Voice, Cyber City, and SMART. Students like Lyndon, Zela, and Erby are engineering students certain that SEP will help prepare them for future challenges may it be in employment or entrepreneurship.

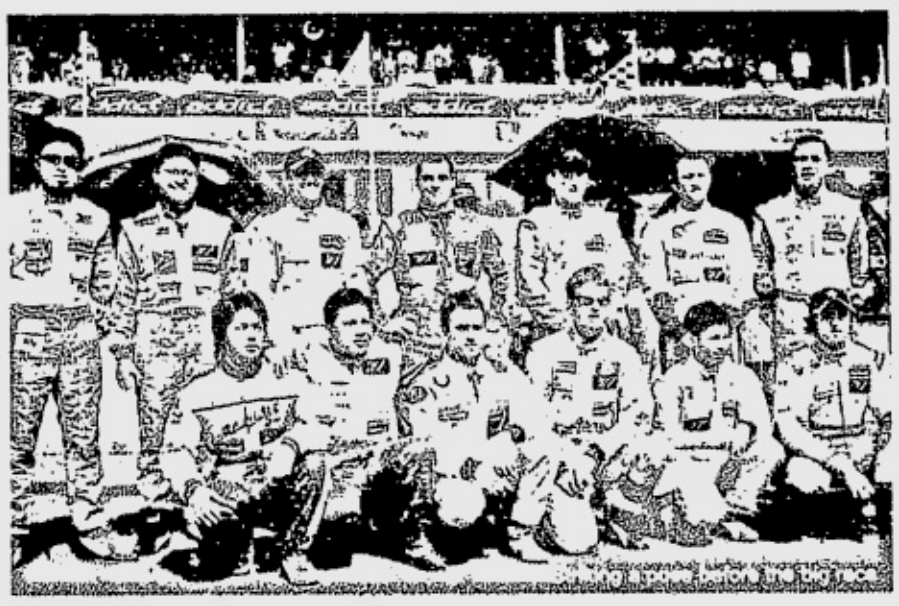
For SEP, this mutual show of confidence in the program and in the students and schools that support them is what a winning partnership is all about.

Put the Pedal to the Metal

Batangas welcomes the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix



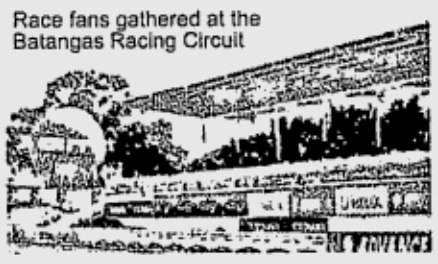
AF3 Formula 3 is acknowledged as the breeding ground for future Formula I racers. addict MOBILE



Feel the need for speed

"Gentlemen, start your engines!"

Race fans gathered at the Batangas Racing Circuit



Race 9 winner John O'Hara (center) is flanked by Tyson Sy and Christian Jones

The roar of the engines cut across the cool Batangas breeze. Matched only by the enthusiasm of the gathered throng, there was great anticipation on the Sunday of December 5 as the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix Series returned to the Philippines. Races 9 and 10 of the championships were decided at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) and competitors from around the world made the trek to decide the outcome.

As the final leg of the Asian Formula 3 series, the Batangas races were of the highest importance and would decide who the winners would be in both the promotion class and overall championships. Race 9 began at 11:00 in the morning and saw Ireland's John O'Hara taking advantage of his pole position to run away with the overall victory. Aussie Christian Jones was in second while Indonesia's Ananda Mikola was third on the podium. The promotion class went to Briton Oliver Turvey, followed by fellow 17-year old and Filipino "Wonder Boy" Tyson Sy. Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia was third.

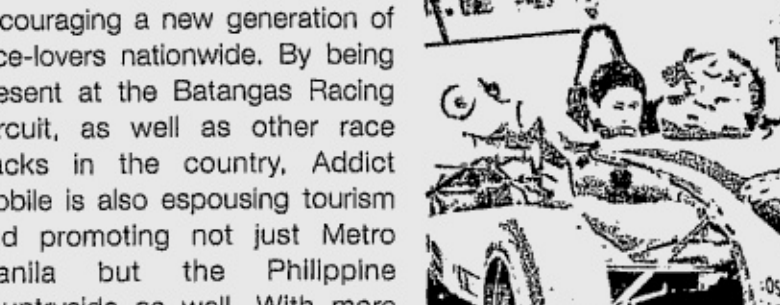
For the final race of the season, the stands of the BRC were even more packed than usual. Hundreds of race aficionados were on hand in the afternoon, expecting an even more breathtaking battle than what occurred earlier. On the fourth lap, leaders O'Hara and Jones were entangled as the Irishman tried to overtake the Australian, forcing both cars out of the contest. This left the field wide open for whichever driver could take advantage. The promotion class saw hometown favorite Tyson Sy winning, cheered on by banner-waving fans. Tyson was followed by countryman Dado Peña, and Oliver Turvey of the United Kingdom. Overall winner was Ananda Mikola, with Pinoys Pepon Marave and Tyson Sy in second and third place respectively.

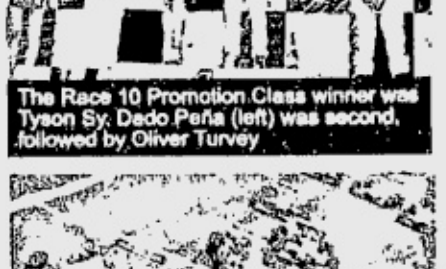
Formula 3 is acknowledged as the breeding ground for future Formula 1 racers. Big names such as Michael Schumacher and Juan Pablo Montoya cut their teeth in F3 before graduating to the F1 circuit. Addict Mobile has been supporting Formula 3 racing in the Philippines, keen on encouraging a new generation of race-lovers nationwide. By being present at the Batangas Racing Circuit, as well as other race tracks in the country, Addict Mobile is also espousing tourism and promoting not just Metro Manila but the Philippine countryside as well. With more racecar drivers worldwide taking notice of the Asian Formula 3 Super Prix Series in the Philippines, the sky is definitely the limit for our homegrown talents to excel here. So make sure to catch them with Addict Mobile as the checkered flag is unfurled next season!

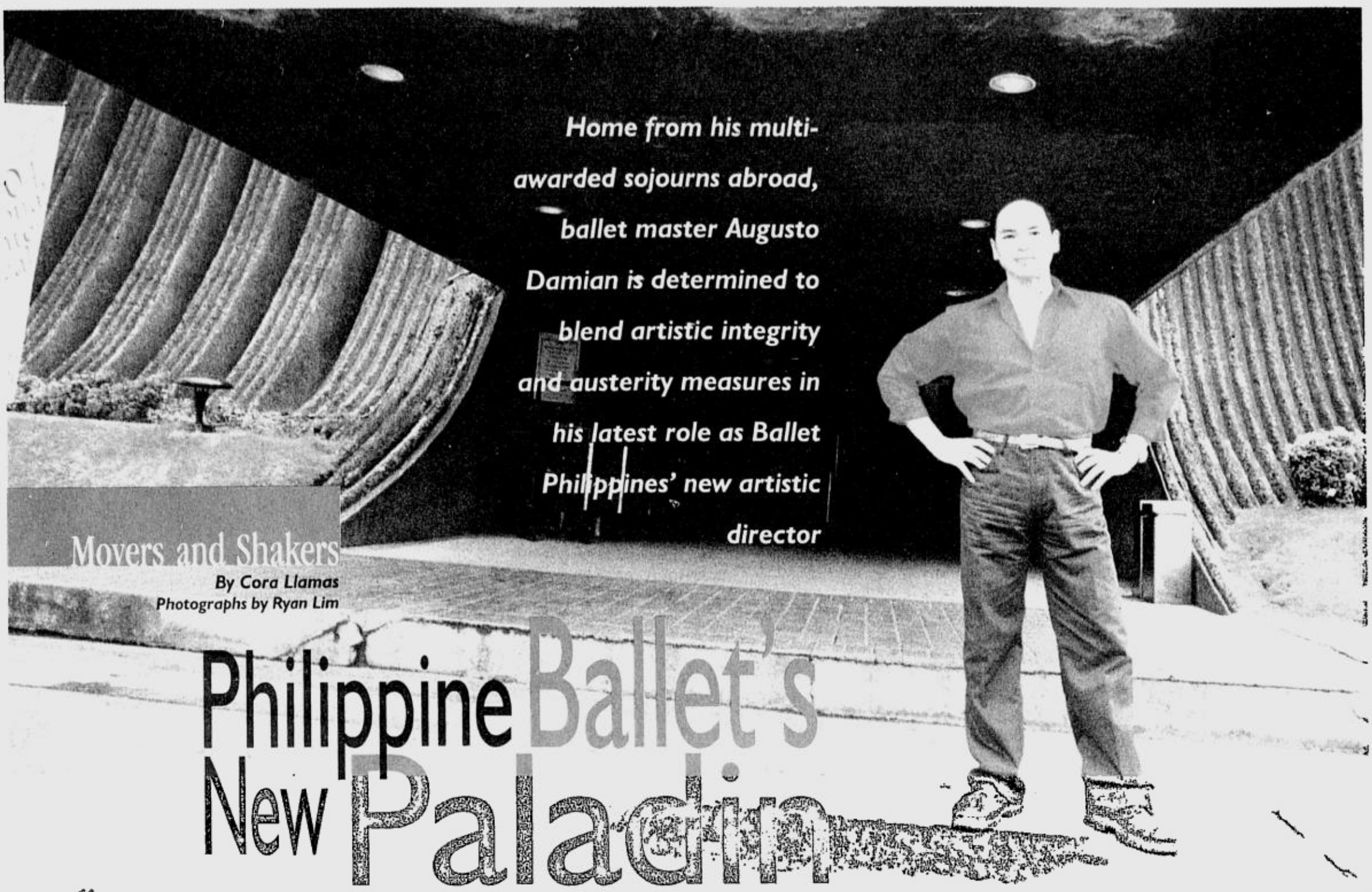
The Golden Boy of Philippine Racing, Tyson Sy

The Race 10 Promotion Class winner was Tyson Sy. Dado Peña (left) was second, followed by Oliver Turvey

John O'Hara leads Christian Jones and the rest of the field







Home from his multi-awarded sojourns abroad, ballet master Augusto Damian is determined to blend artistic integrity and austerity measures in his latest role as Ballet Philippines' new artistic director

Movers and Shakers

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by Ryan Lim

Philippine Ballet's New Paladin

AUGUSTO "Bam" Damian III is Philippine ballet's best-kept secret—and, as far as its rejuvenation is concerned, probably its next new hope.

For 20 years, he danced lead roles in Germany's most distinguished ballet companies to critical acclaim and appreciative audiences in Europe's artistic capitals. His resumé looks like a ballet dancer's dream list: Romeo in Heinz Weitz' "Romeo and Juliet" for the Kiel State Theater, Shiva in Maurice Bejart's "Mailraux: Metamorphosis of the Gods" for the Bejart Ballet Lausanne, the title role in Heidrun Schwaarz's "Nijinsky" for the United State Theaters of Mönchengladbach and Krefeld (VSB Mg-Kr), and Jesus Christ in Francois Klaus' "The Rite of Spring" for the Bern State Theater, among others.

Yet, for all of his accomplishments, the soft-spoken, extremely courteous ballet master appears to be a private person. Damian exudes a quiet kind of intense confidence, but thankfully there is none of the grating air of narcissistic self-importance found among many Pinoys who have found a certain measure of success abroad. That's one reason why he didn't give a lot of interviews when he was scaling the heights of the Paris Opera, Milan's La Scala and Berlin's Deutsche Opera.

If he opens up more these days as the new artistic director of Ballet Philippines (BP), it's because there's a lot on the line. "It's for so many other people. There is so much to talk about and there are so many needs."

BP executive director Ida Beltran invited Damian to take over the helm after his stint in "BP Goes Global." Yet, he unabashedly admits that he has a lot to learn when it comes to dealing with Philippine social realities. There is no gripe session here or a long litany of complaints that compares Pinoy limitations to the privileged life of the Europeans. Call it a change of perspective that acknowledges grimly the immense work that lies before him, coupled with a deeper look beneath the surface that enables him to appreciate what he had long enjoyed and left behind.

Heartbreaking

He describes his wake-up call, "You've got this wonderfully talented bunch of kids who stoically put up with the worst conditions. The rehearsal hall floor is caving in, the linoleum carpets warp and wrinkle, and I can lose my dancers to injuries. They do rehearsals with holes in their shoes, and make their allotted six pairs last for less than a year. In Germany, I can ask for the same number of pairs in a month. The Board of Trustees is doing an incredible job to make the company survive, but it is in dire, dire straits right now. It's heartbreaking."

Fortunately, Damian doesn't back down from such challenges. Not after two decades of pushing himself to his limits in a fiercely competitive performance art scene that demanded nothing less than excellence from its players.

At first glance, it seems as if his career had been handed to him on a silver platter. In 1983, BP's visiting English dance instructor, Rosemary Helliwell, noticed the then 19-year-old newbie who was taking up Architecture at the University of the Philippines. Two weeks after her departure back to Germany, Damian received her letter that began with "I hope you are learning German now because you have just been engaged as the principal male dancer at the Kieler State Theater." Just like that, he got to dance the company's male lead roles, without any auditions or standing on ceremony.

The same thing happened years later in 1986. The director of Theatre am Gartnerplatz in Munich took the long train ride from the South of Germany to its North, watched him in Kieler's "Peer Gynt," and asked him to come on board his company. The customary casting call via auditions was bypassed yet a third time in 1987 when the rehearsal mistress of the highly acclaimed Bejart Ballet Lausanne in Switzerland arranged for him to get in. The circumstances in Bejart were a bit different: He was just one of the 75 dance members who spent almost the entire year on the road touring Scandinavia, Egypt, and Brazil. A year later, Damian emerged as its principal male dancer.

"I worked bloody hard to get it," he says of the extremely coveted position. "Everybody is knocking on Bejart's door. Dancers can be fired overnight because everyone else is lining up. The tours make it sound very glamorous, but what you have to do to stay in that company and merit the position can be bloody. Everybody wants to be the star. When I first got in, I told myself that there was no way I was going to stay at the ensemble level."

All that blood, sweat, and tears effectively defuses the "silver platter" theory. "The so-called 'silver platter' is just step one," he shrugs. "After that, there's all the work that you have to do to prove yourself. If you're not good enough on a technical and artistic level, you can get your ass fired. This is cutthroat competition in the international market."

Never missing

In those long years of dance, he never missed a performance. The one exception was a severely injured knee. The doctor warned him to take eight months off to rest after surgery. After four months, he was back on stage without his doctor's knowledge.

Discrimination towards the downtrodden Pinoy didn't rear its ugly head. What Damian often encountered was a "pleasant surprise," which still exists up to now, that ballet companies, schools, and performers existed in the Philippines.

Damian showed them that Pinoy dancers had other surprises up their sleeves. "One of our difficulties is that we don't have the classical proportions of Caucasian people. To counteract that, you have to be quicker and be more flexible. The director will appreciate that you are never sick, a good dance partner, a fabulous actor. If you can offer all these many jokers, somebody will prefer you to this dancer who just has long legs and good feet."

One lesson he emphasizes to Pinoy dancers leaving to perform overseas: "Don't give in just because it's a white man's profession. It doesn't mean that they're always better than us."

His award as "Best Dancer" from the enthusiastic public of Germany's VSB Mg-Kr, where he worked as principal dancer from 1994-2004, certainly proves that. Prior to that and following his five years in Bejart Ballet, Damian performed with the State Theater of Bern and Ballet Art Francois Klaus in Switzerland.

Damian admits that the benefits European-based dancers routinely enjoy makes possible the exacting concentration that the profession requires. A public who regularly fill the houses of drama, opera, and ballet contribute to a just, humane salary structure for artists. In the Philippines, Pinoys, resigned that their art is a non-profit venture, turn to "rakets" to pay their bills. "It is an enormous privilege when you don't have to think of existence and just do your work."

That's why he can be a bit testy when people who "had never lived in Third World realities" criticize the country's shortcomings. "My first question is, 'Have you ever lived here? What is your solution? You will leave one day, but these people will end up scrounging in garbage cans or doing prostitution just to survive. Do not lecture my people. It's insulting and painful because you have no idea what it's like to live in the Third World.'"

Used to the orderly queues, air of gentility, and Old World chivalry common in the more affluent countries, Damian had his own relearning upon his return. The "lack of gallantry" characterized by men who would not give up their seats to a child, a lady, or an elderly person in the MRT at first angered him. "But I had to consider: This gentleman who won't give up his seat, what do I know about his life? Does he have anything to feed his family? How many hours of sleep does he get? Does he have electricity or a running toilet? Who am I to judge him for the 20 minutes he has to sit down? Until I ask what their realities are, I can't criticize them."

Returning home also brought in more realizations. "How Filipinos improvise under the worst circumstances or how intense and profound our survival skills are. How well they sing and how funny they are."

Creativity and endurance

He would have to bank on that wellspring of creativity and endurance as he ploughs on in his first BP season. His planned austerity program hopes to reduce the financial strain without sacrificing artistic integrity. Opening this weekend is the first production under his care, an earthy not-so-Disney-like retelling of "Peter Pan's Never Neverland." The non-fairy tale approach sounds like a risk, but Damian is inclined to take it, "It's our responsibility to open the public's minds. It doesn't mean that they will like it at once, but they have to have options."

He also hopes to see the day when the Filipino realizes that "the CCP is their theater. The BP is their ballet company."

In a country where art takes second place to survival, it sounds like a tough act. As in all his previous parts, Damian is bent on investing his heart, mind, and spirit in it. "I'm fighting to make the dancers' lives more dignified and give them a better repertoire."

During his stay in Europe, Damian chose not to trade his local passport for a German one, despite the annoying inspections at international airports and train stations visited on the automatically suspect Pinoy. In the same stubborn way, he has taken a difficult cause over a much more comfortable retirement overseas. "I refuse to make this job a disappointment. This is my country. That is an answer in itself." He pauses, then adds with a pragmatic, if unyielding, prayer, "God bless all of us." Q

Ballet Philippines' "Peter Pan's Never-never-land" runs until Dec. 15. Call 551-1003.

Damian: "It's our responsibility to open the public's minds."

Art

Hugis 2004, works in clay by Winnie Go, until Dec. 15 at Gallery 139, 3/L, Girietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

Three simultaneous exhibits of paintings and sculptures featuring new works by **Jose John Santos III, Sandra Fabie-Gfeller and Roberto Acosta** run until Dec. 31 at Boston Gallery, 72 Boston cor. Lantana Sts., Cubao, QC. Fabie-Gfeller presents Kinesthetics, her exhibit of paintings in oil at the Lower Gallery. Santos traces the history of his being through his ancestry in his recent series of works called Past Represented at the Upper Gallery. Acosta exhibits a series of terracotta sculptures titled Cararag at the Gallery Alcove.

Sandra Fabie-Gfeller's "Portrait of White Kimono #1," on view at Boston Gallery

after the fact, an exhibit of installations, paintings and collages by Juan Alcazaren at The Edge Gallery, UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC until Jan. 7.

Finale Art Gallery in SM Megamall is wrapping up 2004 with an exhibit of the latest paintings by **Francesca Enriquez**. Show runs from Dec. 14 to Jan. 8.

Winnie Go's works in clay, on exhibit at Gallery 139

Music

Hyatt Regency Manila presents **VOX Manila**, a vocal ensemble known to take on full-length musical pieces normally performed by grand choirs, in a special Christmas concert series on Dec. 16 to 20, 7 p.m. at the Hotel lobby. Hotel guests as well as walk-in choral aficionados can look forward to a delightful treat of well-loved Christmas carols in a cappella and acoustic arrangements.

Asin's schedule of performances: Dec. 15, 9 p.m.—Marikina Rivergrill Restaurant & Music Bar; Dec. 17, 10 p.m.-Hobbit House, 1801 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila; Dec. 18, 9 p.m.-Roland's Bar and Grill, Bristol Street, North Fairview, QC; Dec. 28, 9 p.m.-'70s Bistro, 46 Anonas St., Project 2, QC; Dec. 31-Asin guesting in a New Year concert in Ayala Avenue, Makati. For Asin bookings, you may email projectace2003@yahoo.com or call Toinette Bernales of Project ACE Concert Productions at 942-4684.

SinagTala in cooperation with the MCO Foundation and the Church of the Holy Trinity present **Come to the Stable 4**, an annual free Christmas gift-concert and a fundraiser for Ang Arko ng Pilipinas, a home caring for the mentally challenged. The concert will be presented on Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at Church of the Holy Trinity, 48 McKinley Road, North Forbes Park, Makati City. For inquiries, call or text 0918-9468252 or 878-4358 to 59.

Listen to **acoustic nights with Dawn Bande** at her 9 p.m. gigs: Mondays—Travel Lounge, Tramo Road, Pasay; Tuesdays—Easy Street Bistro, Royal Place building, Don Antonio St., Commonwealth Avenue, QC; Thursdays—Whistle Stop, Edsa Shangrila Mall; Friday—Inihaw Republic, Katipunan Avenue (near Blue Ridge).

Cinema

UP Film Institute's schedule of screenings: Dec. 13, 5 p.m.—"Live Flesh"; Dec. 14, 4 and 7 p.m.—"King Arthur"; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.—Lav Diaz's *"Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino"*; Jan. 7, 2 p.m.—*"Himala"*; Jan. 7, 5 p.m.—*"Atsay"*; Jan. 10, 2 p.m.—*"Mano Po"*; Jan. 10, 5 p.m.—"Spirit Warriors"; Jan. 11, 2 p.m.—"Spirit Warriors-The Shortcut"; Jan. 11, 5 p.m.—*"Mano Po 2"*; Jan. 12, 2 p.m.—"Shake, Rattle and Roll"; Jan. 12, 5 p.m.—Surprise film; Jan. 13, 5 p.m.—"Nowhere to Hide"; Jan. 14, 5 p.m.—"Three Seasons." For details, call 926-3640 (direct line), 926-2722 (telefax) or e-mail upfilminstitute@hotmail.com.

Onstage

Find romance, action and adventure in **Lam-ang**, a rousing new musical by Von de Guzman based on the famous Ilocano epic "Biag ti Lam-ang." Lam-ang is about a precocious Ilocano lad embarking on a journey to find his father, his fortune, a suitable wife and the acceptance of his Christian neighbors. The musical makes use of exuberant pop music, traditional chants, and neo-ethnic dance to be staged at Rizal Mini-Theater, Ateneo de Manila University on Dec. 15-18 at 7 p.m. with 2 p.m. showings on Saturdays. For ticket reservations, call 426-6001 local 5121 or 0917-2055943.

Dulaang UP, in cooperation with Instituto Cervantes, present ***Recoged Esta Voz*/Gather This Voice: The Miguel Hernandez Project** a unique theatrical montage of songs, texts, dances, films, and movements based on and inspired from the life and works of Spanish poet Miguel Hernandez. It will run until Dec. 16 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theatre, 2/F, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman Campus. For inquiries, call Dulaang UP office at 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6441, Jo-Anne Quiros at 09154541632, or Sir Anril Tiatco @ 09175102554.

Vox Manila performs at the Hyatt Regency Manila lobby

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Trumpets' Christmas musical offering, **Peter Pan and the Time Machine**, goes live at SM Megamall Cinema 10 on Dec. 12, 18 and 19 with performances at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The musical tells the whimsical story of two children's fantastic journey through time and space to find the best Christmas present ever. For tickets, call Trumpets office at 633-5010 or 636-2842, Ticketnet at 911-5555 and Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Jose John Santos III's *"Ang Tipanan,"* on view at Boston Gallery

Atbp

LaSalle College International, a fashion design school with headquarters in Montreal, Canada, offers Diploma courses in Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing as well as Certificates in Fashion Styling, Pattern-making, Buyer and Print Media & Advertising. Enrollment ongoing at Bloomingdale Bldg., 205 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Registration until Dec 18. Classes start Jan. 10, 2005. For inquiries, call 840-1476, 840-1543 or visit website at www.clasalle.com/manila.

Intro to Poetry Writing, a seminar-workshop on metrical and free verse writing to be held on Dec. 18 at the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo, Quezon City. For details, call 285-24-49 or (0916) 3622406.

Musicat will hold **auditions** for Ryan Cayabyab and Noel Balmaceda's **"Alikabok,"** and Nonoy and Waya Gallardo's **"Saranggola ni Pepe, The Musical"** on Dec. 16, 2 to 8 p.m., 4/F MKP Room of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. It is open to male and female actors, ages 16-30, can sing, dance and act, fluent in Filipino and English, with good personality and stage presence, has the time to rehearse extensively and be part of the touring production. Please bring resumé with photo and prepare a song in English and Filipino. For details, call Cel Layag at 723-1765 and 721-7229.

During the holiday season, The Peninsula Manila will prominently display 2 seven-foot-tall Christmas trees in its lobby as part of the hotel's worldwide **Trees of Hope campaign** to benefit the local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Red and gold Christmas balls may be purchased for P250 at the Trees of Hope counter at the lobby which will be manned by a Make-A-Foundation volunteer from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until Dec. 25.

X-manila

A **Seminar on Butterfly Farming** covering species of butterflies and host/food plants, culture, cage/house and other "how to" of raising butterflies will be held on Dec. 18 in Los Baños, Laguna. For details, call or text 0918-9407126 or 0926-7349954.

Pinoy Ngayon

By Jess Abrera

X'mas Lights

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

The Unsaid Understanding

It's been two months since it happened, Joe, but I still can't get him out of my head. But when I'm at home and the phone rings, I secretly wish it was him calling

Dear Joe,

I'm a college student studying in what is perhaps the biggest university in the country. I've had a crush on Edward ever since I first saw him on TV in a quiz show for high school students. I was also in high school at the time, so I wasn't committed to anyone yet.

When my friends introduced me to Friendster, I immediately got hooked. I thought of adding almost everyone possible to my list of friends. One day, I thought of adding Edward. I just hoped he would approve my request. Sure enough, he did after a few days.

I didn't have anything particular in mind, Joe, I just wanted to have bragging rights that Edward, who my friends also had a crush on, was on my Friendster list.

But one day, he asked me why I added him to my list, who I was, where I studied, and everything else about me. I was excited, but I just thought that he was the really friendly type. I promptly answered, and we soon decided to exchange mobile numbers. We would text each other everyday, until he admitted to me that he liked me. I was shocked, because we hadn't met yet, but I remembered that he probably had seen my photos on Friendster and that he had classmates from my former school who told him all about me. Finally, we decided to meet up, and when we did, I could see that there was really something between us. We were technically "on" for a few months. It was sort of an unsaid understanding, or so I thought.

One early morning, I was still awake for reasons I cannot remember. Then he texted me. I was shocked at what I read. He told me that we couldn't continue what was going on between us because he already had someone else in his life. He said that though he really liked me, he was already seeing the other person before we started seeing each other. I didn't know what to say. He called me up at home and repeated everything on the phone. That was when I cried. I told him that I didn't think he would do that to me. He was also crying when he was talking to me, but he didn't change his mind. I didn't have any choice but to accept the truth. I was about to put the phone down when he asked me if we could still be friends. I said yes. Call me stupid, but deep inside I still wanted him.

But one day, he just stopped making any contact with me. I tried calling him up, but no one would answer.

It's been two months since it happened, Joe, but I still can't get him out of my head. It's not that I'm obsessed with him, because I've found somebody new. But when I'm at home and the phone rings, I secretly wish it was him calling.

I just want to get over him, Joe. People say time will heal all wounds, but I'm afraid I've been scarred too deeply for me to completely get over him.

Sincerely,
Kate

Dear Kate,

It was obvious that Edward was attracted to you when he saw your picture and probably more so when he met you in person. He didn't want to let an opportunity pass without getting into some sort of a mutual understanding with you. It was the perfect arrangement. You were content and happy with what you had going and he was enjoying the benefits of a real relationship minus the commitment.

For some reason, he decided to cut off ties and just be friends with you. He must have realized it wasn't right to be in a liaison with you or he probably just lost interest in you. Whatever his reasons were, it just points to one thing—it's over. He must have offered friendship just to make it easier for you to give him up but he wanted to be completely out of your life. And that's where he is now.

Kate, you still have unresolved wishful thoughts about Edward. You still want him and long for his presence. You think you have closed this chapter of your life because you are with someone new now but deep inside, there is still this silent yearning for the things that could have been. Wishing it is him when the phone rings reflects the inner conflict between the past and the present. You are still silently hoping that one day he would come into your life again and continue where he has left you.

Kate, I know there is still plenty of time to wish for him to be back in your life but there are just instances when we have to accept our loss and move on with our lives. Love sometimes leaves scars that are impossible to erase but that doesn't mean that there is no life after we have been hurt and blemished. The scars might remind us of our past but that shouldn't keep us from living our best today. Kate, it is true that love hurts. It is true that no matter how deep our wounds are, time heals them. And it is also true that only when we learn to accept the love that we have lost can we have the chance to find it again in a better and more lasting relationship. Q

Tina

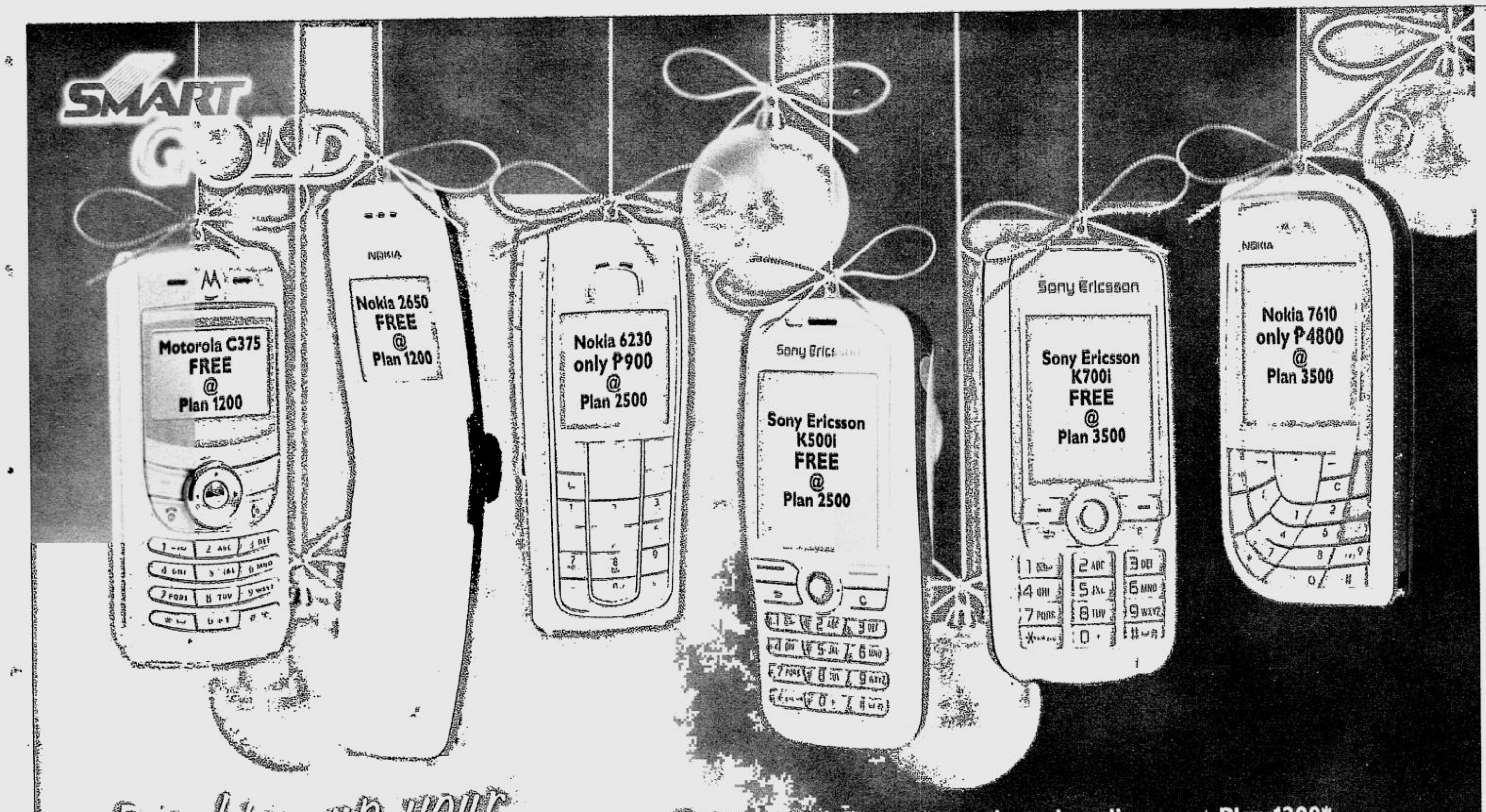
...from page 2

things fitness-oriented. "It's not just that there is so much to keep up with, but I really enjoy it." And though she's very popular and successful now, she's still tinkering with her own life, looking for the right balance: "I want to simplify my life, to focus on doing the things that are really important."

Changing the bad habits of Filipinos is a formidable challenge, but Juan keeps on top of it. "It's a diet that is going to cause future problems for this country in terms of diabetes, strokes and heart attacks." She is concerned that an entire generation of children is growing up eating fast food and prepackaged noodles. "That gets me scared." Aside from the fad diets, there is the necessary switch from diet to lifestyle choice. Exercise is also important. "It's never too late to change," she reminds.

Now that it's Christmas time, Juan counsels against overeating, which is very common during this holiday: "Avoid exaggerated amounts. Keep it in smaller portions, and thank God Christmas doesn't last forever."

All this time, Juan has been surprised by the reaction she's been getting. "I took it as a sign of great responsibility—I began to feel that God had put me there," she says. This is what makes it all worth it—the countless repetitions, the endless research—knowing that she's doing some good somehow. Fatefully, Juan garnered medals in school for writing and drama, and today her different outlets make full advantage of her earlier leanings. "I wanted to either go into speech and drama, become a journalist or a doctor. Now, it's almost like I'm doing all three," Tina Juan says with a knowing smile. "I feel very blessed that God has allowed me to enjoy this." Q



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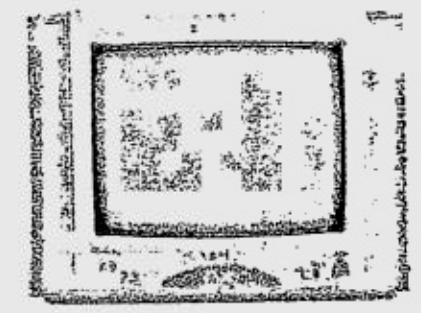

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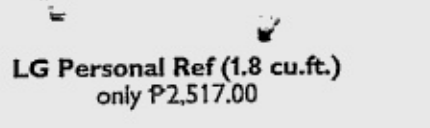

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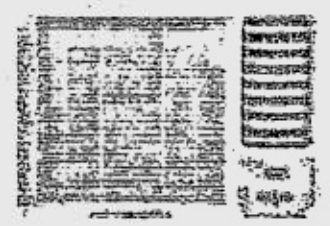

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